



ICAPGen

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

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Professional
Genealogists

AG[®] News and Views

SUMMER 2010

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ICAPGen Website Continues to Expand

We hope you are all enjoying ICAPGen's new website! Thank you for your patience as we have worked out a few bugs and added lots of content. Our goal is to make this website a central place for AG professionals and AG hopefuls to get your questions answered and find resources to help you in your genealogy endeavors.

Some new features that you may not be aware of on the new website include:

1. **The ICAPGen calendar.** You can link to this calendar from the home page, www.icapgen.org. You'll see a current calendar with each day of the month indicated by its number. If the number is underlined, that means there is an event associated with that day. Click the number, and details about the event will pop up on your screen. Use this calendar to keep track of upcoming mentoring classes, quarterly testing dates, conferences, etc.
2. **The ICAPGen store.** We are happy to announce that you can now register for the annual ICAPGen Family History Conference online with a credit card! Visit <http://www.icapgen.org/icapgen/events> for more information and to register. At the ICAPGen store, you can also purchase mentoring class syllabuses. Watch for more products to be added in the near future!
3. **ICAPGen Forums.** Did you know that you can post comments and/or questions about accreditation and ICAPGen on our website? From the home page of our website, click Forums to begin a new discussion or add to an existing discussion. Let's use this feature of our website to collaborate together!

So keep an eye on the website and let us know how you like our progress!

New and Renewed AG Professionals

Congratulations to these individuals who have recently passed their exams and oral reviews and received their Accredited Genealogist credential:

Barbara Baker—Scotland
Marc Despain—England
Susan LeBlanc—New England States

Congratulations to these individuals who have successfully renewed credentials:

JoAnne Haugen—Mid-South States
Darris Williams—England

Contact details can be found on the ICAPGen website.

New Quarterly Testing Cycle Begins



There is now a set schedule for application submissions, written exams, and oral reviews.

With two independent raters, rating an ICAPGen application, examination, or oral review takes at least three hours. In addition, much time and energy is devoted to coordinating all the experts who perform these operations. Since everyone involved in the grading process is a volunteer, as well as a professional researcher, the Testing Committee recognized that we would “burn people out” if we continued “giving tests on demand”!

Therefore, on July 10, 2010 we began experimenting with a new quarterly testing cycle system. Under this system all applications submitted prior to July 10 were saved to be recorded and delivered to the Grading Subcommittee. This allowed committee members to focus on updating and test development. Applications received after July 10 were saved to be graded when the next cycle begins in October.

On July 10 four members of the Testing and Grading Subcommittees met and started grading applications. After about six hours, the early applications were half done. Each application is rated by two independent experts. On July 15, six raters again met to complete the job, but with nearly a dozen applications received (over twice as many as normal) and all of them for International regions, they were still not complete after another eight hours. On July 16 experts in the International regions where applications were submitted were contacted to assist in this rating in order to be complete in time for notice to be sent to those whose applications passed.

For those whose applications passed, the proctored examinations were given on July 28. On July 29 the examination grading process began, after which emails were sent to those who passed so they could prepare for their oral reviews the end of August.

Applicants who score under 80% on the exams are encouraged to reapply in the next quarter. Historically, over half of all applicants do not pass the first time. One application fee of \$150 covers an entire year, so an applicant has multiple opportunities to reapply before they must pay again. If someone requests to be tested on a different date, they must pay an additional fee to cover the cost of paying for a special proctor who does this service over and above their requested volunteer time.

After the oral review, one week is allowed for those who might be assigned an additional project to raise their score. If the applicant cannot complete the project within the week, they may submit the project before the deadline for the next quarterly application on October 9th and be scheduled to be rated with that group.

About September 11, the first trial of a consolidated testing and rating cycle will conclude and notifications will be sent to those who received passing scores on all components of the process. At the same time, notification is sent out of the new AG professionals to the ICAPGen Chair, Testing Committee members, Newsletter Editor, Web Master, Executive Secretary, and Member—

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How I Became Hooked on Genealogy

The summer I was twelve years old, my family and I made a trip from our home in Dallas, Texas to visit my father's family in central Missouri. Since we had previously lived in the Denver area, we hadn't been to Missouri in six years, and I had few memories of it or of family. On this trip I discovered my large extended family of aunts and uncles and cousins, and I had my first look at the old family bible with the names of my ancestors recorded. They both made a big and lasting impression on me.

Upon our return home I began asking my father about his childhood, his deceased parents, and his family history, and I took notes. Eventually I made my first rough sketch of a descendency chart, beginning with my great-grandparents, on a long piece of white shelf-lining paper (I still have it). When my mother's parents came to visit, I also asked them about their childhoods and families and took more notes. I became hooked on the hobby of collecting and recording my family history. (I also liked to visit old cemeteries and copy the quaint sentimental inscriptions, for which my friends thought me 'weird.' I couldn't blame them!)

When I was in high school and contemplating what I wanted to do with my future (becoming an architect was my first choice), an introductory copy of the new *Southern Living* magazine arrived at our house one summer day. In the back was an article on a genealogical library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The article mentioned that there were professional genealogists who used the library to do research for their clients.

Not being a member of the Mormon Church at the time, I had never before heard of professional genealogists. I immediately made up my mind to become one. I went to my public library and checked a printed resource on the best schools to attend to train for various careers (this was in the 'old' days—before computers and the Internet). Under the career choice of 'Genealogy' it listed only a university in Washington D.C. and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Since my maternal grandparents lived in western Colorado, and I could visit them on holidays, I applied to BYU and was accepted in the fall of my senior year.

That summer I attended my first genealogy classes at a BYU education weekend held at an LDS Ward house in Dallas. There I met some of my future professors who were to become my friends and mentors—Ben Bloxham and David Pratt.

After graduating from BYU, with a genealogical emphasis in British research, I moved to Salt Lake City and did client research at the Family History library, where I became familiar with the British reference staff. Eventually I was asked if I would like to join the staff and I said yes. I've been at the library for nearly 30 years now, and I still love it. I am an Accredited Genealogist in both English and Scottish research.

I consider myself extremely blessed to have become 'hooked on genealogy' at such a young age and to have been able to make a successful career of my wonderful 'hobby!'

—Barbara Baker

A childhood hobby became a successful career.

New Quarterly Testing Cycle Begins, cont.

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Ship Certificate Secretary. If you are planning to apply for a new AG credential, or if you find yourself answering questions about the application process, please be aware that a new consolidated application and examination cycle is being implemented. The chart below shows the key dates as they exist at the time this newsletter was prepared. These dates may be modified as we strive for improved efficiency. Please check the www.icapgen.org calendar for the current schedule.

Remaining 2010 Schedule	4th Quarter 2010			1st Quarter 2011			2nd Quarter 2011		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Deadline for applications to be received	9			3			4		
Proctored exams given	30			26			27		
Orals—held on 2 days if over 2 applicants for one region			4, 7		22, 26			24, 28	
Due date for orals assignments, if any			9			8			7
Notice of status sent to applicants			11			12			11

NOTE: We suggest that if you are pretty confident that your application is going to be acceptable, and you live out of state, that you arrange to be in Salt Lake City the day before the next proctored test is given. Coming a day ahead of time will give you time to review items in the library. For test security reasons, you may NOT use your own portable computer, thumb drive, or flash drive during the exam. You MAY use your own printed research notes, portfolios or notebooks that cover the region being tested, as this is “an open-book” test. If you have other questions, please contact ICAPGen.

We appreciate the many hours contributed by professional AG researchers to assist others through mentoring, rating applications, grading exams, conducting oral reviews, updating exams, developing new exams, and explaining all these processes to the world on our wonderful new Web site.

With nearly 400 people taking the preparation courses to become credentialed AG researchers, the Testing Committee is in great need of AG volunteer graders. If you have time to help, please contact us.

Ray and Karen Clifford, Co-Chairs
 ICAPGen Testing Committee
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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>.