



ICAPGen

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

AG[®] News and Views

WINTER 2010

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mentoring Classes a Huge Success 1

Maintenance Fees Due Now 1

State of the Organization Report 3

Free One-Day Seminar in April 4

Meet One of Your New Commissioners 5

Article: How I Got Hooked on Genealogy 5

NOTICE TO ALL AG PROFESSIONALS:

Invoices for 2010 maintenance fees have been sent out via email. If you did not receive yours, or you need one mailed to you, PLEASE notify Joy Price at: familyjoy@cablone.net, or call 1-866-813-6729. If you have not paid your annual maintenance fees, they are due NOW. Thank you.

Mentoring Classes a Huge Success

The response to ICAPGen's announcement concerning free monthly mentoring classes has been overwhelming! More than 400 genealogists from Utah, Idaho, and Colorado enrolled in the January classes held in Provo and Salt Lake City to learn skills that will assist them on the path to accreditation.

The excitement felt by some registrants was revealed in their responses to ICAPGen's invitation to register:

"I attended the November conference at BYU and really enjoyed the different sessions. I wish I had been able to attend them all. In addition to looking forward to participating in the mentoring group I look forward to attending next year's conference. Thanks for being part of an organization that helps budding genealogists build skills and for helping tie others to their ancestors!"

"I am greatly interested in learning how to be a better genealogist so that I can better help those at our Family History Center and do a better job of searching for my ancestors."

"Even if I am not able to become accredited at this time, I think the classes will still be of great value."

"Thank you for offering this opportunity. I must admit, I got excited when I received your E-Mail encouraging me to become an Accredited Genealogist. In the back of my head I have yearned to complete that training for some time."

The first three classes were conducted on January 12-13 on the BYU campus in Provo, Utah and at the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 100 genealogists attended each class. Comments made by participants to the AG presenters and monitors showed their continued enthusiasm.

Due to the large number of registrants, additional classes have been added to reduce the instructor-student ratio. Seven monthly mentoring classes will be offered beginning in February, with two additional Fast Track classes. The Fast Track classes are designed to assist genealogists who are close to submitting their applications to proceed through the complete mentoring course within three to four months.

Topics for the monthly mentoring classes include completing the application form, creating research portfolios, extracting and transcribing documents, choosing a project, using online resources, analyzing evidence, citing sources properly, writing reports, analyzing pedigrees, and writing the research project. January's instruction focused on completion of the application form.

One presentation each month will be video-taped and added to the ICAPGen web site the following month so that all genealogists may participate in some form in these mentoring classes.

Looking Back at 2009 and Ahead to the Future

ICAPGen has just completed a busy year, and we are anticipating many exciting changes in 2010. I'd like to take a moment and review some highlights of this past year and mention some exciting things happening this coming year (not listed in any particular order).

1. **NEW ADDRESS!** Our mailing address has changed from Orem to Salt Lake City to accommodate the current needs of our organization. It is now: PO Box 4464; Salt Lake City, UT 84110-4464.
2. **NEW WEBSITE!** ICAPGen is updating with a new professional "look" on our website. Thanks to the efforts of Anne Roach, Joli Kruger, Mike St. Clair, Tristan Tolman and our website team, our new website will reflect ICAPGen's vision of the future. Some new features will include a shopping cart for conference registrations and purchases of ICAPGen products, better showcasing of our AG professionals, and new educational and mentoring resources, etc.
3. **NEW LOGO!** In the midst of our website changes, we also have a new logo! (See page 1) We will still utilize our old logo for certain items and will have the new one on our website and correspondence.
4. **TESTING PROGRAM:** A detailed self-assessment form is now available to help interested AG applicants determine for themselves whether they are ready to take the exam. In addition, every AG application is now evaluated using a rubric system that ensures a more fair and impartial rating process for each applicant.
5. **RENEWAL PROGRAM:** An updated renewal program was implemented, effective 1 February, by a unanimous board vote. Renewal submissions now require 1) a summary letter of genealogical activities, including the completion of two requirements from the Education and Skill Building List; 2) a research report or article, and 3) a signed professional ethics agreement. A new renewal form and checklist simplify and clarify the process. Carol Smith and Danielle Batson head the Renewals Committee, with Echo King as renewal secretary.
6. **MENTORING PROGRAM:** Our mentoring program is taking off like a shot in 2010! Kelly Summers and Apryl Cox, as new co-chairs of this committee, have already begun an ambitious mentoring program (see page 1). A one-day pre-accreditation seminar is also scheduled on the Tuesday, 27 April, prior to the NGS Conference in Salt Lake City (see page 3). This seminar is limited to 190 attendees, and we already have 60 registered. Special thanks to Tristan Tolman for her assistance in coordinating these classes and to the AG professionals who are teaching classes and answering questions at these workshops.
8. **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Tristan Tolman has utilized multiple resources to publicize the ICAPGen Conference and other ICAPGen events this past year. We now have a presence at wiki.familysearch.org, genealogywise.org, and Facebook.com! Plans for 2010 include increased exposure of ICAPGen in the genealogical community, through advertising at various conferences and internet networking with many researchers in Utah and surrounding regions. Our special thanks to the Family History Department for their support and assistance.
9. **NAMES IN STONE:** We are coordinating efforts with Gateway Mapping and the Family History Department to assist cemeteries in preserving their written records through computer technology and to help researchers and family members find a particular grave using a GPS tracking system. (See www.namesinstone.com for more info.)
10. **BOOK PUBLICATION:** Under the direction of Tristan Tolman and Kory Meyerink, our book *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist* is nearly ready for publication. Copies will be available for sale later this year!!

[Cont. next page]

11. **2010 NGS CONFERENCE:** To be held in Salt Lake City on April 28—1 May 2010. ICAPGen is sponsoring several speakers during the Friday sessions, including John Kitzmiller, Kelly Summers, and Daniel Lynch. Apryl Cox is our ICAPGen-sponsored luncheon speaker that day, and we hope to see you all there to support Apryl and our other speakers at this event! ICAPGen will also have a booth in the vendors' hall, and we will need support from everyone in taking turns at this booth to answer questions and meet people.
12. **2010 FGS CONFERENCE:** To be held 18-21 August 2010 in Knoxville, Tennessee. ICAPGen is sponsoring four speakers at this conference: Suzanne Russo Adams, Ruth Maness, Amy Harris, and Karen Clifford. They will also have a booth at this event.
13. **ICAPGen CONFERENCE:** ICAPGen held a successful conference last November on the BYU campus in Provo, thanks to the special assistance of Kelly Summers, Suzanne Adams, Tristan Tolman, and numerous volunteers. We are currently exploring possible venues for this year's conference in Salt Lake City and will soon announce the date and location for this event!
14. **LONG-RANGE PLANNING:** A special ad hoc committee met together last November to construct a draft five-year vision plan for ICAPGen that will be discussed and voted by the commissioners sometime this year. This plan provides a 'road map' of

ICAPGen's future growth and increasing impact in the worldwide genealogy community.

15. **LEADERSHIP CHANGES:** Our many thanks to the following individuals who have served ICAPGen so well in various capacities this past year and have recently moved on to other responsibilities—
 - Anne Leptich--Chair of ICAPGen
 - Beth Davies--Corresponding Secretary
 - Janice Cushman--Webmaster
 - Lorraine Bourne--Mentoring Committee
 - Anne Roach--Commissioner
 - Colin Chapman--Commissioner

We'd also like to welcome aboard the following —

- Ray Clifford--Commissioner
- Joseph Shumway—Commissioner
- Claire Brisson-Banks--Commissioner
- Carol Smith and Danielle Batson--Co-chairs of Renewals
- Yvonne Sorenson--Corresponding Secretary
- Mike St. Clair--Webmaster
- Kelly Summers and Apryl Cox--Co-chairs of Mentoring Committee

We look forward to their fresh ideas and energy in developing new programs within our organization! It will be an exciting and eventful year in 2010 for ICAPGen!!

Linda K. Turner, AG®
Chair, ICAPGen

Meet One of Your New Commissioners: Claire Brisson-Banks, AG®



Claire is a professional researcher with many years experience. She is accredited® in England Research with expertise in US, Canada and Web 2.0 technologies. She is a native of RI and has worked for the FHL since 2005. Her time is devoted to the technological side with the patron computers and as a research consultant. She has a B.S. from Roger Williams University, RI and is working on her MLIS out of San Jose State University. She has given many lectures on a variety of Family History topics concentrating on various localities as well as the youth and the latest tech tools. She is published in *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, *Links* and *UGA Crossroads*. When not doing Family History, she loves spending time with her family, reading and writing. She is married to Les J. Gimson Banks, a native of Australia, has 6 children, 18½ grandchildren and currently resides in South Jordan, UT.

Free One-Day Seminar in April

ICAPGenSM announces a free one-day seminar to help prepare genealogists to become accredited. The seminar will be conducted on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 (one day prior to the 2010 National Genealogical Society Conference in Salt Lake City) at the Church History Museum Auditorium. The seminar begins at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 4:30 p.m.

AG[®] presenters will discuss each section of the accreditation process from preparing the application to taking the written competency test and oral review. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Hear about the benefits of receiving a credential learn how to complete an application form to best represent one's experience and level of knowledge.
- Find out how to compose an effective, quality client report and assemble accompanying documents to complete the required application project packet.
- View sample test questions.
- Practice timed test segments.
- Observe a mock oral review.

This seminar will be most helpful for the following:

- Applicants currently preparing their projects.
- Applicants who plan to schedule their written test during 2010.
- Applicants who plan to submit their application during 2010.

Space is limited so early registration is recommended. To register for the seminar, please include your name, phone #, address, and area in which you plan to become accredited in an e-mail to icapgenmentoring@comcast.net. You must be registered to attend. Here is a chart of the schedule for the day. →→→→

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

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	TIME
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of seminar. • Benefits of becoming accredited. • Using the ICAPGen web site to help you. 	8:30-8:45
Application form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation areas. • Completion of the Application Form. • Hands-on: experience and education portions of the app. 	8:45-9:45
Application project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project requirements. • Project selection. • Elements of a good client report. • Accompanying documents. • Rate Your Own App. • RGDP • Hands-on: practice citing sources, formatting footnotes, creating a report outline, stating an objective and conclusion. 	10:00-11:20
Written test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics. • Test preparation. • Overview of each test section with sample questions. • Hands-on: Timed practice with sample questions. 	11:20-12:00, 1:00-3:00
Oral review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics. • Preparation. • Topics that may be covered during the oral review. • Mock oral review. 	3:15-4:20
Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly mentoring sessions. • Virtual sessions. 	4:20-4:30

Meet One of Your New Commissioners: Joseph B. Shumway, AG®



Joseph became involved in genealogy at age 12 and by age 16 was teaching classes at his local Family History Center. While in high school, he was presented with the Young Historian of the Year Award by the Wyoming State Historical Society for his efforts in directing the compilation of local cemetery records. Joseph has owned his own research business, but now works full time at ProGenealogists, Inc. as a Case Manager. He currently serves as Vice President of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and was recently nominated to serve as its President in 2010. Joseph is Accredited in English research, but has a wide range of other specialties including U.S., Wales, Scotland, Italy, Hungary, Latin America and Jewish genealogy. He and his wife, Arit, have an 18-month old daughter and live in Grantsville, Utah.



How I Got Hooked on Genealogy by Debbie A. Hagner, AG®

When I was young there was a wood-framed document dated 1866 from the king of Wuerttemberg hanging on the wall at my grandparents house. I always wondered what it was; it peaked my interest. I found out that it was presented to my great-grandfather, Johann Christian HAGNER, after the Austro-Prussian War. Wow! I wanted to know more. I wanted to know all about my relatives, where they lived and what they did. This one framed award and my grandfather's family stories sparked my interest in genealogy when I was just 8 years old. Now that wooden frame hangs on my office wall. It reminds me of how I got hooked on genealogy.

My grandfather had put together a photo album of various people in the family. Every time I visited my grandparents in Florida, I would flip through the pages of the photo album and wanted to learn more about the people in the album. I was born with a hearing loss that caused me to "miss" hearing many family stories; but seeing the pictures helped me learn more about my relatives. I depend on lip-reading to "hear" so having the person's name written under each picture made it easier for me to understand the relationships.

Growing up I heard various names in the "family" – Aunt Martha, Aunt Rose, Aunt Bernice, Aunt Betty, another Aunt Rose, Uncle Eric, Uncle Ted, Aunt Meta, Uncle Bruno, Aunt Frieda, Uncle Clinton, and people I had never met – Bill, Gussie, Adele, and Uncle Bruno. I

asked my grandfather to write down the names and how these people were related so I could see the information rather than relying on hearing the stories. He made a chart for me back to my great-grandparents. Wow, this really opened my eyes...now I wanted to know more information. I was getting "hooked."

The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn, so I asked my grandfather more and more questions. I finally got a better picture of the various names on the genealogy chart. One by one we covered all the people. Along the way, I heard many funny, fascinating and sad stories. I heard the story of my Uncle Gussie – my father's brother who died in 1943 when he was 21 of a rare disease called Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). Recently, my father gave me some letters written to Uncle Gussie by some Army friends during his illness. The stories those letters tell from 1942 were very enlightening. The more I find out, the more I want to know!

As I was growing up I did not know a lot about genealogy and family history. I would get my facts mixed up (sometimes because of my hearing loss and sometimes just because I had an imagination) like thinking our family came here on the Mayflower and arrived on Plymouth Rock or that we were related to some royal family. When I got older I wanted to learn the real stories.

[Cont. next page]

[Cont. from previous page]

When I was in High School my mother and her sister (Aunt Martha) would receive letters from Germany. I was curious: who were these people? How were they related to me? The names on the list were my maternal grandfather's family; I never met him as he died before I was born. Except for Uncle Bruno, all my grandfather's brothers and sisters stayed in Germany. Why? I wanted to know the whole story: why they came to America and when. Every answer I received opened up a new question. Aunt Martha helped me write a letter asking for more information about the Helbig side of the family. It was not easy getting information as they were living on the East Germany side. I received a great deal of help from "Aunt" Ella who was a clerk in a church in Germany. She got me copies of documents in German.

In 1981, I got a job at IBM in Binghamton, New York. I soon bought my first computer. Now I could start compiling my family history. I purchased genealogy software called "Roots" by Quinsept, which no longer exists today, and I entered about 1,000 names. I really thought I had completed my Family History! But I soon realized that there was, and still is, so much more to learn and discover! I eventually switched to "Rootsmagic." It is much easier to keep track of all the names if you have a computer program to help you.

I took informal classes on genealogy in Binghamton. The instructor had a scrapbook with different documents. The scrapbook gave me ideas and I started collecting documents about my family and recording them into the computer. Now, I not only had names but also documents. I was really getting "hooked"!

To learn more, later I took informal classes in New Port Richey, Florida. I learned about the local LDS Family History Center. (I still volunteer there 3 days a week.) I got better at understanding record keeping and learning how to use the Family History Library catalog.

In 1994, I decided to take some formal courses from Brigham Young University in Family History. I finished the two-year home correspondence program in 6 months and received a Certificate in Family History. From one of the courses I was able to really learn how to read German handwriting. This was important because both sides of my family were from Germany.

I attended several genealogy conventions on various levels – local, state and national. Every time I went, I met wonderful people and I learned a great deal about the field of genealogy. There is always some new information being released or discovered. I began to accumulate paying clients and every year I would go to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to do research on my family and those of my clients. I met genealogists who specialized in German research and they really helped me learn more about German genealogy.

I decided to work on my accreditation and specialize in Midwestern states. I flew to Salt Lake City to take the written exam. I am only the second hearing-impaired person to receive their accreditation. To continue my education, I'm going to study Latin because some of my families were Catholic and many records are in Latin.

Currently, I have more than 25,000 names in my genealogy database. One of the lines goes back to the 1400's and the remainder to the 1600's in Germany. I have been to the Family History Library over 20 times and every time I go there, I always find something new! I have over 8,000 documents which support my genealogical data. I still have several more to find! Once you get into genealogy it is very easy to get "hooked" — you just want to find more and more. I have always found great pleasure in finding a "paper trail" on ancestors. It is just amazing what one paper can tell you, and it can lead you to more and more papers, and so on.

My schedule now includes writing articles and giving lectures and classes on genealogy in many cities around Florida, Milwaukee, and in Salt Lake City (including the Utah Deaf Genealogical Association in June 2008). I want to help others get "hooked" by sharing my experiences and offering support like I have received. I am also involved in several genealogy societies and have held various positions.

My dad always asks me "Are you done yet?" and I tell him, "NO!" Hooked on Genealogy? Yes! — thanks to the love, support and continued help of many people and family. So are we done yet? N E V E R!

[Thank you Debbe for sharing your story. Debbe can be contacted at: debbe.hagner@gmail.com. If you have a "How I Got Hooked on Genealogy" story you would like to share, send it to bakerbh@familysearch.org.]