



# ICAPGen

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

## AG® News and Views

FALL 2010

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

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### NOTICE TO ALL AG PROFESSIONALS:

Invoices for 2011 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](mailto:familyjoy@cablone.net), or call 1-866-813-6729. If you have not paid your annual maintenance fees, they are due NOW. Thank you.

## Report on the ICAPGen Conference

The ICAPGen annual conference was held on October 22 -23 at the Downtown Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City. We had over 120 registered participants including avid genealogists, AG professionals, students and missionaries. About 80% of the participants were first time ICAPGen conference attendees. Forty extraordinary presenters taught sixty different classes covering a wide variety of topics. Class tracks included Professional Skillbuilding, U.S. Research, International Research, Keeping Up with the Times, Family-Search, Internet & Technology. The Most popular classes were: Effective Research Strategies, Client Report Writing, Citizenship & Naturalization, Establishing Rates, Copyright, Using Research Calendars Effectively, and Evidence Analysis.

Our vendors included The Utah Genealogical Association, Generation Maps, Family Roots Publishing, Heritage Collection, RootsMagic, Legacy and BYU Print Services. They set up in the foyer between the classes to tempt us with their products and services.

A highlight of the conference was the catered luncheons. Positive energy was shared as we munched and mingled. During the first luncheon, seven newly Accredited Genealogists® were recog-

nized and given their ICAPGen certificates (and have been mentioned in the newsletters.) ICAPGen Chair Linda Turner also presented service awards to the following individuals:

—Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Karen Clifford
- Carolyn Nell

—Outstanding Service Award:

- Kory Meyerink
- Tristan Tolman
- Joy Price

Our second luncheon was a regional mentoring lunch. All participants sat in groups according to their areas of research interest. Time was spent networking, sharing expertise and discussing the accreditation process.

At every conference we have a Friday evening banquet. This is another chance to visit with old friends, make new friends and listen to our banquet presenter. This year's presenter, Daniel Poffenberger, gave an interesting and humorous presentation on the unusual names he has found in his research over the years.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this conference a success! If you were not able to attend the conference this year, we hope you will plan to attend in the future.



# Whispers from the Dust

ICAPGen is launching its annual giving campaign to raise funds for the new "Whispers from the Dust" cemetery grant program. "Whispers from the Dust" is the grant program formerly known as "Lest We Forget." We hope AGs and others who share our mission to promote the preservation of genealogical materials will help our grant fund grow with a tax-deductible donation. With this new grant program we plan to financially assist cemeteries who want to preserve their maps and data digitally and make them available online.

As researchers we all know how valuable data on a headstone can be, but we plan to take it a step further by integrating that data with an accurate map of every grave in a cemetery. In a virtual cemetery visit online, researchers will be able to view spatial relationships of graves and solve genealogical puzzles that could not be solved with mere headstone transcriptions.

Genealogists know that paper cemetery records are typically stored in places that make them vulnerable to the ravages of time and natural disasters. These important records---both maps and burial data---need not be lost forever, but can be safeguarded for future generations when cemeteries have access to records management software and online, offsite backups.

The technology is available for this new approach to cemetery record preservation, but many cemeteries cannot afford it. We plan to make it a reality, one cemetery at a time. You should have recently received a "Whispers from the Dust" mailer. Please consider a contribution to help launch our new program. If you would like to volunteer with our grant program or recommend a cemetery that would like to participate we'd love to hear from you. You can learn more about the program on the ICAPGen website.

Dayna Jacobs,  
Chair and Program Coordinator

# Information for all AG Professionals

The ICAPGen board has determined that it is necessary to increase the annual maintenance fees to \$60 for a first credential and \$15 for each additional credential. All AG professionals should have received an email invoice for your 2011 fees, which are due no later than January 10. We'd like to remind you that you can pay your annual fees via credit card on the ICAPGen web site.

We would also like to remind you that it is your responsibility to keep your contact information

up to date on the web site. You must create yourself an account on the site, then you can go in and update your information as needed.

We would like to thank everyone who recently voted electronically for your new ICAPGen commissioners. The names of the successful candidates will be posted shortly on the web site and information about them will also be included in upcoming newsletters.

## Update on the Mentoring Classes

2010 has been a great year for the new mentoring classes designed to assist individuals to successfully complete the process of becoming AG professionals. Very successful mentoring seminars were held in January and April and a course of monthly classes was taught beginning in February. The mentoring classes have been filmed and are now available on the ICAPGen web site for viewing at your convenience.

Some of the lessons are currently being revised or updated, and two new lessons will be added to the course – a second evidence analysis lesson, which will include more application, and a lesson which should better prepare applicants to take the written exam. These revisions and additions are being made in preparation for our mentoring classes for 2011.

Two mentoring courses will be offered January through May 2011. The Salt Lake City course will be taught by Apryl Cox and will be held in B-1 of the Family History Library from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Monday on each month. The Provo course will be taught by Kelly Summers and will be held in room 4824 of the BYU Harold B. Lee Library from 6 to 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming an AG professional, please encourage them to attend these classes if they live in the Salt Lake City or Provo areas. If they do not live near by, encourage them to go to the ICAPGen web site and view the recorded lessons.



## New and Renewed AG Professionals

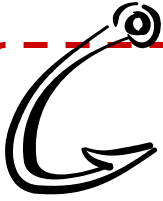
During 2010, ten individuals successfully passed the exams and gained new AG credentials. Some of these have already been mentioned in previous newsletters. Congratulations to these latest successful applicants!

- Milan Tyler-Pohontsch — Germany
- Ismael Orrantia — Mexico
- A. Boyd Nielsen — Denmark
- Peggy B. Chappell — England
- RayDean Hill — England

Congratulations also to these AG professionals who have recently successfully renewed their credentials for another five years:

- Judy Jones, England
- Darrell Hooker, Mid-South U.S.
- Carolyn Ugolini, Italy
- Barry Kirk, Belgium
- Tricia Petrey, Mid-South U.S.

Contact information for all AG professionals is available on the ICAPGen web site.



## How I Got Hooked on Genealogy

One of our newest AG professionals, Milan Tyler-Pohontsch, has agreed to tell us a about himself and how he got 'Hooked on Genealogy:'



"I am a native German and I now reside in Orem, Utah with my wife and family. I grew up bilingual, German and Wendish (a.k.a. Sorbian, the language of a small Slavic minority in south-east Germany).

"About 32 years ago, when I was 14, I found a family record of my grandparents that was created in Germany about the year 1935. It was a "Sippenbuch", a marriage certificate with an incomplete four generation family tree. I was fascinated from the first moment on, but I was a teenager and had other priorities. It took me 10 years more before I started to complete the missing parts of the family history.

"I spent hundreds of hours in different church parishes and other archives; interviewing my living ancestors and hunting for old pictures. This was more than just a hobby for me, it became my passion. I became 'hooked on genealogy.'

"I have two engineering degrees from German universities. I worked as an engineer in Germany and in my spare time I studied genealogy and paleography. After gaining a lot of personal genealogical experience I became responsible for a genealogical research center in Bavaria / Germany. The number of persons doing research in this center quadruplicated during "my" time. From then on I was dedicated to the study and research of genealogy. I still visit parishes and archives in Germany and Poland about once a year for my clients.

"After I came to Utah, I served an 18-month part-time mission at the LDS Church Office Building, cataloging microfilms of parishes in Slovakia and Hungary. I am currently employed by Brigham Young University in Provo.

"I recently became accredited in German research, but also do Eastern European research. I also love history and carpentry. In my spare time I volunteer in various genealogically related projects, especially in connection with the Iowa Wendish Heritage Study Group. I am the co-author of a lineage book and I also translate books and documentaries from Wendish into English."

*To all AG professionals and our friends,*

*Merry Christmas*  
from ICAPGen!

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>.