

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS *and* INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

2011 Family History Seminar
Trace Your Roots
and leave a legacy of love

Updated 09-25-2011

#1 Beginning Family History

Description: Basic and intermediate information for the beginning family historian — Forms, recording, documenting, interviewing, and avoiding duplication of your efforts.

Instructors: Michael & Gwen Butler

#2 How the Family History Center Can Help You

Description: Whether you are a beginner or long time researcher, there is help at the Family History Center for you. Free access to subscription websites (*FamilySearch*), low cost rental of films of original records, one-on-one assistance from family history volunteers, connecting with volunteers or patrons who are familiar with your research region or country - come learn about your local Center.

Instructor: **Sheila Winkelspecht** is a long-time family history volunteer, presently working at the Family History Center on Wednesday nights. She delights in the continual changes that make family history research easier and more affordable for everyone. She also welcomes you to use the facility to start, extend or expand your family tree, and reminds you to stay organized so that the process will be easier and the record you produce will be valued by others.

#3 Staying Organized

Description: Research will be easier, quicker and more enjoyable if you stay organized along the way; learn how to produce a credible record of your family history to be cherished for generations to come.

Instructor: **Sheila Winkelspecht** (See course #2)

#4 Personal History - Beginning to an End

Description: Are you interested in beginning a journal, but aren't sure how to start? Maybe you have been keeping a journal for years and you're looking for some fresh ideas or a little encouragement. Maybe you're a parent or a teacher and you're looking for ways to encourage others to use a journal. Learn the questions to ask yourself and the answers will take care of themselves.

Instructor: **Bertha Seigfried** has been doing family history for over 30 years with a focus on her Pennsylvania heritage of British and German ancestors. She and her husband, Joe, are Assistant Family History Directors in the Deland, Florida Stake Family History Center. Bertha is one of 100,000+ Indexers who have indexed over 6 million records for *FamilySearch.org*. A native of Pennsylvania, she lives in Orange City, FL

#5 Podcasts, Webinars & Online Classes

Description: Numerous new free resources for online genealogy education have appeared during the past year. You can now sit at your computer and learn from the nation's top experts. Patti will explain the variety of courses and show you how to find them online.

Instructor: **Pat Payne** has been doing family history for over 40 years. A long-time volunteer on Tuesday mornings at the Family History Center, she enjoys participating in *FamilySearch* Indexing. A Registered Nurse, she raised her family in New Mexico and has lived at Deseret Ranch for 15 years. She and her husband, James, are the parents of 7 children. She enjoys increasing her knowledge of family history and its' associated technologies.

#6 Free Digital Tools for the Genealogist

Description: From genealogy programs to cloud computing. Office suites, image editing, email, organization, sharing, backups and more...

Instructor: Patrice Green is the State Coordinator for the *FLGenWeb Project* and the webmaster for other commercial and private organizations. She is the *WorldGenWeb* Country Coordinator for several Eastern European Countries, County Coordinator for Brevard and Miami-Dade Counties in Florida, and the list and/or board administrator for about a dozen genealogical locations, surnames and topics. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Brevard Genealogical Society or 10 years.

#7 Using Google & Online Book Sources

Description: Explores the Google Book website and its' advantages for the family researcher.

Instructor: Dorrie Dykstra is a graduate of Stetson University and has been a school teacher for 32 years. Active in family research since 2006, she is a member of the Brevard Genealogical Society, the DAR, Daughters of 1812 and the Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club. She also volunteers at the Family History Center in Rockledge.

#8 Improving Family Photographs

Description: Photos of family members are sought after by genealogical researchers. Bob's tips and techniques for family photographers will help you leave a family legacy.

Instructors: Dr. Robert Grover is a former broadcast journalist with the NBC and CBS TV affiliates in Salt Lake City and Orlando. He has a BS degree in Journalism and a minor in French from Brigham Young University, a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Florida and is a photography enthusiast. He and his lovely wife, Melissa, have four children.

#9 Documenting & Recording Sources

Description: Documenting an information source is just as important as recording the information itself. Learn how to correctly list and tag Primary & Secondary sources, citations, etc.

Instructor: Peter Bradish has a BS in Electrical Engineering from MIT and worked for 28 years in IBM Technical Support. He has co-authored over three dozen articles for Everton's Genealogical Helper. He and his wife, Connie, have traveled for the past 15 years, lecturing and giving genealogical presentations to societies and genealogical events.

#10 Swedish Research

Description: Research techniques for Swedish family history including the Genline website.

Instructor: Connie Ohlman Bradish earned a BS from the University of Tampa and an MS from the University of Georgia and is Professor Emeritus from Brevard Community College. She has authored a number of articles for Everton's Genealogical Helper, lecturer and a member of the DAR.

#11 Color-Coded Scots

Description: This class on Scottish research covers many facets, including the Mc-Mac-M' Controversy; Ages and Dates; Septs; Irish Tartans; a brief history of the tartan and its importance to a Scot; Scotland's People; and more!

Instructor: Rich Shader is a gifted lecturer on the Scottish/Celtic culture to genealogy groups, schools, churches, civic groups and historical organizations in the Central Florida area. He is a 26 year US Air Force Vietnam veteran, former President of the Scots-American Society of Brevard County, Florida; FSA Scot, co-editor and publisher of the international Celtic Seasons newsletter and of the Palmetto and Thistle newsletter, and much more.

#12 “La Genealogía y su importancia en la familia”

Genealogy: It’s Important to the Family

Descripción: Como despertar interés por la Genealogía, tanto por el conocimiento de sus antepasados como aun por la importancia médica y cultural. ~ *una clase en español.*

Description: Awaken your interest in Genealogy! Learn how the knowledge you gain from your ancestors’ lives, medical history, and cultures can link generations in love. Learn how and where to research your Latin American Roots. - *This class is taught in Spanish & English.*

Nivel de Formación: *Principiante-Avanzado*

Skill Level: *Beginner-Advanced*

Instructor: Carlos Rojas - es originario de Colombia. Tiene un grado en Administración de Empresas y es dueño de dos negocios locales. Por 33 años ha disfrutado ayudando a otros en la búsqueda de sus antepasados así como los de El mismo. Esta agradecido por el entrenamiento genealógico que ha recibido a través de los años, El disfruto especialmente su tiempo cuando visito la Librería de Historia Familiar en Salt Lake City reuniendo información y recibiendo instrucción.

Instructor: Carlos Rojas - is originally from Columbia. His degree is in Business Administration and he is the owner of 2 local businesses. For 33 years he has loved assisting others in research as much as he loves looking for his own ancestors. Grateful for the genealogical training he has received over the years, he especially enjoyed his time visiting the Salt Lake Family History Library gathering information and receiving instruction.

#13 FamilySearch Historical Records

Description: *Familysearch.org* Historical Records. This website contains over 600,000,000 names, census and digital records. The many benefits of this website will be demonstrated using a test case.

Instructor: John L. Whitney is a Florida native, he has researched his family since the age of seventeen. His inspiration was his Great Aunt, Mira Whitney Gunther whose love of family was shared through long letters and many personal conversations. He is the Director of the Family History Center in Rockledge.

#14 FamilySearch Indexing: Giving Back

Description: This course will show you how you can help save other researchers decades of time by participating in the *FamilySearch* Indexing program. All within the comfort of your own home at your own computer! Learn how, in the last five years, over six million records have been indexed and placed on *FamilySearch.org* by more than 100,000 volunteers.

Instructor: Marian Harrison is an Assistant Director at the Family History Center, Ward Family History Consultant in the Palm Bay 1st ward and Stake Indexing Director. And she has never missed teaching at any of our annual seminars! (Hip-hip Hurrah!) For many years, she has taught the Beginning Genealogy class for the *Genealogical Society of South Brevard* and serves on that organization’s board. She has indexed and arbitrated hundreds of thousands of records in the *FamilySearch* Indexing program. An Air Force veteran, she belongs to the local WAF group.

#15: Courthouse Research

Description: This class will present one of the *FamilySearch.org* videos and discuss areas of research in courthouses - where to go, what’s available, who to ask and answer: why go at all? You will be exposed to one of the site’s lesser known online training videos available at any hour, day or night.

Instructor: Marian Harrison (see course #14)

#16 Get Ready, Get Set - it's the 1940 United States Census!

Description: On our trip to finding ancestors, the U.S. Census is the first stop. Each census is unique in its content, and it's important that we are aware of its many quirks and diversions as we gather up the names of those we wish to locate. Next April, the 1940 census becomes available to the public. This time, it will contain information on many of us!

Instructor: Marian Harrison (see course #14)

#17 Clues, Assumptions, Wild Goose Chases: Researching Maiden Names

Description: Finding a female ancestor's maiden name is one of the most challenging tasks of genealogical research. Come learn how to build a case for your ancestor's identity through tips, clues, assumptions and investigation. Learn how not to jump to conclusions or you may find yourself on the proverbial wild goose chase.

Instructor: Dee Swink was a weekend hobby genealogist for many years. After retiring it became a nearly full-time pursuit for her. Her research has primarily centered on South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina where her ancestors settled before the American Revolution. She served for several years on the Brevard Genealogical Society Board, is a past president of BGS, and belongs to several genealogical societies in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

#18 No Brick Walls, Just Detours

Description: Have you hit a brick wall in your research? This course is for you. Come learn how to navigate around, back up from or break down that barrier! Free yourself from mishaps by learning how to follow a simple little formula for success.

Instructor: Patti Kirk is a longtime faithful friend to and supporter of this annual seminar. (We thank her, immensely!) She has been researching genealogy for over 35 years. It started as a hobby but when she retired it became a new career. A published author, in part to her accomplishments as a lecturer and creator of 41 unique classes for researchers, Patti is a director of *FamilyHistoryResearchers.org* in Vero (with 445 members now!).

#19 The Pitfalls of Secondary Sources

Description: The pitfalls of relying on secondary sources for establishing genealogical facts are recognized by all trying to build a reliable source list. Even when we think we are recording reliable sources, they may in fact prove to be secondary and thus subject to errors. The case of John and Martha Chapman demonstrates this point.

Instructor: Paul R. Finch has been involved in genealogical research for the past 40 years, specializing in New England colonial genealogy. He graduated from the Institute for Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., in 1976, and is now a director of the NIGR Alumni Association. He is a contributing editor of the *Connecticut Ancestry* magazine and president of the *Finch Family Association*. His book, *Stamford Town Records*, is forthcoming this fall.

#20 African-American Research

Description: The objective of this class is to assist the researcher to locate and document their African-American family through census and other records.

Instructor: Robert Washington, III - has a BS from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, an MBA and MA in Management/Leadership from Webster University in Melbourne, Florida. He is currently employed by the Department of Defense (Air Force) as a Financial Management Analyst. His interest in African-American genealogy began three years ago. He is currently researching in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North and South Carolina.

NOTES OF THANKS:

Very Special Thanks

We want to extend a special thanks to all of our instructors and volunteers. None are paid. They volunteer their time, their talents, and resources to make this event happen annually. They come from near and far at their own expense to share their expertise in tracing their roots.

Thanks to Patti Kirk and FamilyHistoryResearchers for continuing to be the largest group attending again this year!

Family History Consultants:

Family History Consultants staff local Family History Centers (FHC), branches of the world famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The local FHC is located at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1801 South Fiske Blvd., Rockledge (SW corner of Fiske and Barton).

Consultants are volunteers with varying levels of experience who work with FHC patrons to find and properly organize family information. They also provide personal instruction in the use of FHC facilities, software tools, and equipment such as computers, microfilm and microfiche readers, and microform copier.

Free and open to the public, call 636-2431 for current hours of operation and to volunteer.