

TRACE YOUR ROOTS

and leave a legacy of love



2009 Family History Seminar COURSE DESCRIPTION & INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

(Updated 09-20)

#1: What's New in Family History - FamilySearch

Description: *Keynote Presentation* ~ A discussion of the new programs being developed by FamilySearch. Discussion will cover FamilySearch.org, new FamilySearch, FamilySearch Family Tree, FamilySearch Indexing, Pilot FamilySearch Records, FamilySearch Labs, FamilySearch Wiki and affiliated programs.

Skill Level: *Beginner - Advanced*

Instructor: **Miles Meyer** - has taught genealogy classes for over 12 years and has developed lesson manuals used around the world. He is a beta tester for products like AncestralQuest, FamilyInsight, and web databases for FamilySearch. He maintains several websites including his blog at <http://milesgenealogy.blogspot.com> & <http://milesmeyer.googlepages.com> where he posts his lesson manuals.

#2: Begin & Expand Your Family Tree

Description: This class was designed to aid the beginner, as well as the advanced genealogist, to new technology available in the genealogy forum, such as: "Google Your Family Tree"; The National Archives of Washington, D.C.; Footnote; World Vital Records; On-line digitized library collections, Family DNA; and many more up-and-coming sites.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Advanced*

Instructor: **Nancy Barnard Broderick** - has lived in Ohio, Maryland, and Northern Africa. Along the way she graduated from the University of Maryland (Anthropology). A founding member of The Family Histories Research Group of Vero Beach (Education Director), she designs and teaches genealogy classes in Beginner Genealogy, Brick Walls, and Maiden Names, to name a few. Married for 42 years to her husband John, they currently live in Vero Beach.

#3: The Value of Census Records

Description: Need help finding an elusive ancestor? One very basic research tool is the U.S. Federal census, taken every 10 years since 1790. What years had unique features? What might be hidden in the grids? An overview of US census records and research methods will help you discover what may or may not be there.

Skill Level: *Beginner*

Instructor: **Marian Harrison** - is the Assistant Director of the Family History Center in Rockledge. She is a board member of the Genealogical Society of South Brevard, teaching their Basic Genealogy course twice a year. She is a Family History Consultant and FamilySearch Indexing advisor.

#4: Create Records of Value: Note Keeping & Organizing

Description: This class is being repeated due to many requests from last year. It is for anyone starting research or ready to put research findings together. Accurate recording, citing sources, and organizing information ensures a more enjoyable, affordable and successful research process, and adds to the credibility of any compiled record.

Skill Level: *Beginner*

Instructor: **Sheila King Winkelspecht** - began research in 1974, has helped others since 1981, and delights in the continual changes that make family history research easier and more affordable for everyone. She is presently a staff member at the Rockledge Family History Center (Wednesday evenings) and a family history consultant in Viera Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

#5: Locating Passenger Lists

Description: Discover how and where to locate information on records prior to 1820. There are many records to be unraveled in strange places. We will cover the time-period up to 1940. Join us on our trip!

Skill Level: *Intermediate-Advanced*

Instructor: Patti Kirk - is a faithful friend to, and supporter of, this annual seminar and we thank her! She has been researching genealogy for 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 director of Family Histories in Vero consisting of 230 members and a blog at www.familyhistoryresearchers.wordpress.com.

#6: A Few Notes on Footnote

Description: An introduction to the Footnote website and some of its features

Skill Level: *Beginner*

Instructor: Miles Meyer - *see course #1 instructor bio.*

#7: Google.com

Description: Simplify research frustrations by learning the tricks of Google and then enjoy the rewards of success.

Skill Level: *Beginner - Advanced*

Instructor: Patti Kirk - *see course #5 instructor bio.*

#8: On Location: Western & Eastern Europe

Description: A variety of genealogical topics relating to researching on location in Wales, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Austria, Hungary, and Sicily. Additional insights regarding the Ellis Island experience, early immigration to America: St. Augustine to Ellis Island, Italian genealogy, and visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

Skill Level: *Beginner-Advanced*

Instructors: Dr. James & Barbara Ragusa

Dr. Ragusa specializes in Italian, Hungarian, and Slovak family genealogy. He is a former Air Force R&D officer, retired NASA-Kennedy Space Center engineer and manager, retired-tenured University of Central Florida Business and Engineering Associate Professor, and a retired independent consultant to the U.S. Army. His degrees are in Mechanical Engineering (B.S.) from the University of Illinois, and Business Administration (M.S., PhD.) from Florida State University.

Barbara Williams Ragusa has traced most of her Welsh and Slovak ancestors back to the late 1600s through Mormon records and visits to Chicago, Wales, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. She is a retired music teacher, vocal soloist, and housewife. Her degree in Music Education (B.S.) is from the University of Illinois.

#9: Ancestral Home Towns: Tracing European Roots

Description: Ideas and techniques used to find the town of origin of four European families, using US census data, passenger lists, immigration and emigration records, birth, death, civil and church records, Google Search, and internet family genealogy forums. Real examples will be used to show information content of these documents along with pitfalls leading to false hopes and eventual success.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Advanced*

Instructor: Jack Schweikert - retired from two careers, Boeing (Management) and IBM (Marketing Support), but he has not lost his love for customer service. His family research began with incomplete and incorrect information on his father's side. By searching the web and original documents on microfilm found at the Family History Center, City of Philadelphia Archives, Presbyterian Church Records and the National Archives he linked his German speaking ancestors to Prussia, Württemberg, and Alsace.

#10: Getting Started! Canadian Research

Description: Resources for those beginning Canadian and French-Canadian research, with an emphasis on online databases, Dit names and church records.

Skill Level: *Beginner*

Instructor: Michelle Horton ~ is a family history consultant in the Viera Ward of the LDS Church who has been tracing North Dakota and Canadian ancestry since 1989. Along the way, she has gained knowledge in all areas of research by serving in Family History Centers. She delights in helping others find their “missing” ancestors; her shift at Rockledge FHC is on Saturdays.

#11: “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.*

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.

#12: The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road

Description: The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road played a major role in the German and Scots-Irish settlement of the early American colonies. The road was instrumental in the settlement of inland Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. It also contributed to the settlement of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and points west.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Instructor: Dee Swink - Genealogy became her full time occupation after retiring from Lockheed Martin (Systems Analyst) in Georgia. Her research is centered on South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina, since her ancestors settled there before the American Revolution. Serving on the Brevard Genealogical Society Board for several years and as a past president, she also belongs to several genealogical societies in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

#13: On Location: Researching in Sweden

Description: Save time by gathering tips, information and instruction on basic to intermediate Swedish research from someone who has been there and done that! Come learn the ins-and-outs of finding hidden treasures in Swedish records.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Instructor: Dr. Gordon L. Nelson - is a professor and Dean at Florida Institute of Technology. His background is in physical organic chemistry and he holds degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno (B.S.), and Yale University (M.S, Ph.D.). Nelson has spent much time researching in Sweden. He is responsible for many of the Swedish microfilms permanently in our Family History Center collection. His classes at our Seminars have always been informative and popular.

#14: Digital Imagery of the Family

Description: Capturing, storing, editing, and presenting digital still and video images of families

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Instructor: Dr. Robert Grover - is a former broadcast journalist with the NBC and CBS TV affiliates in Salt Lake City and Orlando. He holds degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Florida. Currently he is a dentist and part-time photo fanatic. He and his lovely wife, Melissa, have four children.

#15: Reviewing Family Tree Maker

Description: Refresh and renew your thoughts on how to effectively use this tool.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Instructor: Philip G. Wright - is a software engineer with 30 years of experience. Currently Phil is researching his New England and Canadian roots. Along the way he is speaking to groups about Colonial New England and genealogical computing topics. As the First Vice President of the Brevard Chapter, Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Phil is active with their youth program. He is treasurer of The Morse Society, on the board of the Genealogical Society of South Brevard. webmaster for the Indian River Genealogical Society and a member of several regional genealogical and historical societies.

#16: Family History Websites: Why, How & HTML

Description: Best practices, options for hosting, basic Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) for building web pages and web sites, File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and how to obtain a domain name. Emphasis on hand coding HTML using Microsoft's Notepad or Mac's Text Edit.

Skill Level: *Intermediate - Advanced*

Instructor: Patrice Green - has over ten years experience as a webmaster for various organizations, both commercial and private. Her credits include FLGenWeb, Inc., The Brevard Genealogical Society, Inc., WorldGenWeb Country Coordinator for several Eastern European Countries, County Coordinator for Brevard GenWeb and other Florida counties. She has over ten years experience as list and/or board administrator for about a dozen genealogical locations and/or surnames.

#17: Medical Mystery & Family History

Description: Become a Sleuth! Find and analyze medical conditions in your pedigree. Use resources to locate medical conditions in death certificates, diaries, written genealogies, oral histories, major historical epidemics; discussion of genetic conditions and development of a personal medical pedigree/genogram. Case studies will be used to illustrate content. Implications for current family members will be discussed.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Instructor: Elizabeth A. Fisk - is a professor emerita in the nursing department of Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. She is a clinical specialist in Developmental Disabilities and taught over 20 years in obstetrics/gyn, pediatrics, pharmacology, and RN to baccalaureate program. A genealogical historical lecturer and instructor, she is co-founder of Family Histories.

#18: Family Reunion Fun: Linking Generations

Description: Panel discussion. Ideas for getting started, venues, souvenirs, activities and meals. Christine Smith is leading a panel of women with an abundance of experience planning and attending family reunions.

Skill Level: *Beginner-Intermediate*

Facilitator: Christine Smith - is a former school teacher and a mother of five children now grown and on their own. Her current interests and hobbies are sewing and reading. Originally from Arizona, she has lived the last 30 years in Seattle. She and her husband currently serve as volunteers at Deseret Ranch.

#19: Family History Challenge: Roadblocks

Description: *For intermediate and advanced researchers only.* Facilitator will introduce lines where information has come to a dead-end. In a team learning and interactive experience, researchers will discuss personal research methodology for this genealogical game of hide and seek. *Class size is limited to six teams of two, sharing six computers.*

Facilitator: **John Whitney** - is the Director of the Family History Center. He manages the computer updates and new resources made available from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. He is also dedicated to assisting others find their ancestors, and can often be found helping patrons at the Family History Center (his official shift is Saturday).

NOTES OF THANKS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Special Thanks

We want to give 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 the members of *Family Histories* for making and donating homemade cookies! (We can never have too many cookies!)

Special Presentation Displays in the Cultural Hall by:

Family Histories - *African American Families: A Legacy of Hope*

Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Rocket Post 4534 on *The Veterans Oral History Project.*

VITAS - *A Legacy of Love For Those Who Live*

Dawn Alexander - *Handwritten Heritage: Honoring the Legacy*

Helen & Paul Hayes - *Heritage Albums & Scrapbook Fun: Linking Generations*

Deborah Hickman - *Journal Jogging: Renewing Faded Memories*

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.