

GET FOR YOUR PASSION: BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST

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WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL?

SELF-ASSESSMENT – Is it for you?

- Skills
- Education
- Psychological
- Genealogy Business Preferences and Dislikes
- Financial Needs and Expectation
- Outside help
- Investment Capital
- Goals



TRANSITIONING MENTALLY AND ADJUSTING ATTITUDES

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

KNOWLEDGE PROGRESSION

INSTITUTES

- Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University (June)
- National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) at the National Archives (July)
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (January)

MAJOR CONFERENCES

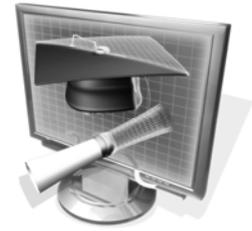
- National Genealogical Society (April/May)
- Federation of Genealogical Societies (August/September)
- APG Professional Management Conference (before FGS conference)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Ohio Genealogical Society Summer Workshop (June or July)
- New England Regional Conference (in April of odd years)
- Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGSA) (October)
- Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree (June)
- Other local seminars and conferences

COURSES

- Akamai University
- Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate program. 14 weeks online, 14 week on campus, 14 summer days on campus.
- Brigham Young University. Students select specialized courses that center upon geographic areas or ethnic groups.
- National Institute for Genealogical Studies. On-line courses resulting in a certificate.



GUIDED AND PEER-REVIEWED STUDY

- Article discussion groups, both in-person and virtual
- National Genealogical Society, *American Genealogy: A Home Study Course*. Students pursue at their own pace sixteen lessons on CDs with optional grading and feedback.
- NGS on-line topical courses (Federal Census, Special Census, Transcribing and Abstracting Records, Working with Deeds); Family History Skills course free to members
- *Professional Genealogy* Study Group

SELF-INSTRUCTION

- Study major journals
- Study major guide books
- Lectures on audio CD from Jamb, Inc.; syllabuses from sponsoring organizations
- Join the APG and read their Quarterly
- Join APG-L
- Take advantage of the BCG online skill-building articles, self-tests, and instructional videos

READY REFERENCE

- Study syllabuses for lecture bibliographies
- Keep your website bookmarks up to date

KEEP UPDATED

On-line newsletters

- *Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter*
- Allen County Public Library (Ft. Wayne, IN) *Genealogical Gems*
- Conference e-zines

eMagazines

- *FGS Forum*
- *Ancestry Magazine* (print and online)

Blogs

- *Up Front with NGS*
- Many others

FINDING A MENTOR – networking suggestions

- BCG ACTION (Aids to Certification Testing: Interactive Online Networking) program

SPECIALIZE – study an area in-depth and become expert in the subject

HANGING OUT YOUR SHINGLE – Advertising and business practice tips

CREDENTIALS – Public Reasons

- Valuable for a professional
- Assures public that your work is up to standards
- Savvy clients hire professionals
- Professionals refer and sub-contract to other professionals

CREDENTIALS – Private Reasons

- Process is a learning experience
- Suggestions from judges
- Validation of skills
- Peer recognition and respect
- Acknowledgment of competence
- Self-satisfaction

CREDENTIALS: AG[®] and CGSM and CGLSM

- Accredited Genealogist[®] credential: International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGenSM)
- Certified GenealogistSM credential: Board for Certification of Genealogists[®] (BCG)
- Certified Genealogical LecturerSM credential: additional testing by BCG

RECOMMENDED STUDY MATERIALS (MUST HAVES)

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 3rd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company (GPC), 2000.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*. Baltimore: GPC, 1997.

———. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Baltimore: GPC, 2007.

———, ed. *Evidence: A Special Issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 87 (September 1999).

———, ed. *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*. Baltimore: GPC, 2001.

———. *QuickSheet Citing Online Historical Resources Evidence! Style*. Baltimore: GPC, 2005.

———. *QuickSheet Citing Ancestry.com Databases & Images Evidence! Style*. Baltimore: GPC, 2009.

———. *Evidence Analysis: A Research Process Map*. Washington, DC: Board for Certification of Genealogists, 2006.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. 3rd ed. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2006.

WEBSITES

Akamai University: www.akamaiuniversity.us/BachelorofArtsinGenealogicalStudies.html
Ancestry Magazine: www.ancestrymagazine.com
Article discussion group, APG Great Lakes Chapter: members.cox.net/talkgenealogy
Association of Professional Genealogists: www.APGen.org
Board for Certification of Genealogists: www.BCGcertification.org
Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate: professional.bu.edu/cpe/Genealogy.asp
Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate Online: www.bugenealogy.com/index.htm
Brigham Young University Online Courses: ce.byu.edu/is/site/
Federation of Genealogical Societies: www.FGS.org
Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR): www.samford.edu/schools/ighr
International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists: ww.ICAPGen.org
Lectures on CD: www.jamb-inc.com
National Genealogical Society: www.NGSgenealogy.org
National Institute for Genealogical Studies: www.genealogicalstudies.com
National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR): www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin
New England Historic Genealogical Society: www.NewEnglandAncestors.org
New England Regional Conference: www.NERGC.org
Ohio Genealogical Society: www.OGS.org
Professional Genealogy Study Group: progenstudy.org
Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance: www.rigsalliance.org
Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy: www.infouga.org
Southern California Genealogical Society: www.scgsgenealogy.com
The American Genealogist (TAG): www.americangenealogist.com
The Genealogist: www.fasg.org/TheGenealogist.html
Free business cards: www.VistaPrint.com

EMAIL LISTS

Association of Professional Genealogists Public List: <http://www.apgen.org/publications>
Association of Professional Genealogists Members Only: sign up in the members-only area
Transitional Genealogists Forum: lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/surname/t/transitional-genealogists-foru.html

ELECTRONIC NEWS

Digital Genealogist: www.DigitalGenealogist.com (archived copies – no longer produced)
Eastman's Genealogical Online Newsletter: www.eogn.com
Genealogy Gems of the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Library:
lists.friendsofallencounty.org/mailman/listinfo/genealogygems
Up Front with NGS Blog: www.NGSgenealogy.org/cs/upfront_with_ngo