



Forensic Genealogy News

Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy

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Check out our new logo!

Junior Member Cathi Desmarais coordinated with M. Alex Moser to create a logo for Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy. Alex also created a logo for members for placement on their promotional material. Alex is a graphics arts student at Kent State.

Welcome Mentor Program Enrollees

Juvanne Martin

CAFG welcomes Juvanne Martin, CGSM to the Mentoring Program. Juvanne is from Nampa, Idaho. Her website, "the Research Network," is found at <http://www.researchnetwork.net>. Juvanne holds a BA degree from Idaho State University (1971) in elementary and secondary education, endorsements in English, Journalism, Humanities, Music, Reading; all subjects K-8th grade, and general media specialist (Library Science K-12th grade). Juvanne taught for twelve years in four different Idaho school districts. She is a former library clerk for the United States Federal Courts Library at the Federal Courthouse in Boise, Idaho.

Juvanne worked at the Idaho State Law Library for five years. She has been a family genealogist, genealogy columnist, historical writer/photographer for two daily newspapers and two weekly newspapers, community education genealogy teacher, volunteer for two Idaho Family History Centers, and Boy Scout Merit Badge Instructor for genealogy and family history. She currently serves as President of the Idaho Genealogical Society (2012-2013), and was Vice-President from 2010-2011. She is also Vice-Regent of the Idaho Pocahontas Chapter of DAR (Caldwell, ID) and also State Committee Chairman of the DAR State Literacy committee.

Linda Woodward Geiger

Linda is a professional historical and genealogical researcher, author and lecturer. She is an associate of the Board for Certification of Genealogist (BCG), holding credentials as a Certified Genealogist, and as a Certified Genealogical Lecturer. Although she specializes in Georgia's state and county records and a variety of federal records, particularly of the southeast region of the United States, she has extensive experience in Cherokee research before and after removal.

Linda is on the board of directors of the Georgia Genealogical Society, the Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region, and the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association; and serves on the educational committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She has served many organizations in a variety of capacities for over twenty-five years.

Certified Genealogist (CG) is a service mark (sm) of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®, conferred to associates who consistently meet ethical and competency standards in accord with peer-reviewed evaluations every five years; the board name is registered in the US Patent & Trademark Office.

Linda and J. Mark Lowe, CG, are principals of Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance). Her website is www.woodward-geiger.com

Welcome New Members

Janice Sellers

When Janice became interested in doing research professionally, she took the advice of several people and volunteered to do research for a few people. She ended up working on the family history of her half-sister, aunt, several friends and everyone in her office! She has worked as an editor for more than twenty years, and is an indexer and a translator. Her college degree was in foreign languages (French major, Spanish and Russian minors). Janice hung out her shingle in 2005, and her very first ad led to a client. Her experience includes general American, black American, English, German, Greek, East Indian, Irish, Jewish, Portuguese, Russian and Scottish ethnic research. Janice has done research for an Army contractor for POW/MIA cases and for the Unclaimed Persons forum. She has given presentations at the international, national, regional, state and local levels. Her specialties are Jewish and newspaper research.

Janice does quite a bit of volunteer work. She has been on the staff of the Oakland Regional Family History Center for more than eleven years. She is the publicity director, programming person, and journal editor for the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society; and the editor of *The Galitzianer*, a quarterly journal for Jewish genealogical research in the former Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia. She has been the treasurer of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the representative of the Northern California chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Janice has worked on several transcription projects, several of which were posted on RootsWeb. This spring she is beginning work as a site coordinator with a project that brings family history to youth groups in Alameda County.

Career Advancement

Catherine B.W. Desmarais, CGSM

CAFG is pleased to announce that Cathi Desmarais, CG has been elevated from the Mentor Program to Junior Member. Cathi currently serves as the Mentor Program Representative.

Cathi has her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Vermont, is a 008 Alumna of the National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR), 2009 Alumna of the Institute of Genealogical & Historical Research (IGHR), Professional Genealogy Study Group (ProGen1), and the National Genealogical Society Quarterly Study Group (2008-present). Her website can be found at www.stonehousersearch.com.

She is affiliated with the following associations:
Association for Professional Genealogists (APG)
New England Chapter for the APG
National Genealogical Society
Vermont Historical Society
Vermont French Canadian Genealogical Society
Lancaster County (PA) Historical Society
The International Society of Genetic Genealogy

Forensic Genealogy Institute

Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy received such an enthusiastic response to its announcement of the Forensic Genealogy Institute, October 25 - 27, 2012 in Dallas, Texas, that five additional slots had to be added. The Institute currently has a waiting list of nearly a dozen.

The Forensic Genealogy Institute offers twenty hours of significant hands-on instruction with real-world work examples, resources, sample forms and work materials. The embedded practicum offers actual forensic case studies that will be covered from start to finish. Those who satisfactorily complete the course will receive a Forensic Genealogy Institute Certificate of Completion.

Sessions will cover Forensic Research Skills, Legal and Ethical Considerations, The Role of the Forensic Genealogist. And Business Aspects.

Leslie Lawson and Kelvin L. Meyers will open the Institute with “Overview and Introduction to Forensic Genealogy with Discussion of the Role of the Genealogist.”

Forensic Genealogist and attorney Michael Ramage, CG will lead a two part session on contracts for research involving missing and unknown heirs, military, adoption, and missing person cases; ethics of contingent fees.

Catherine W. Desmarais, M.Ed., CG and Dee Dee King, CG will present the course “Work Product and Client Documents,” which will include Affidavits, reports, charts, exhibits, proof of lineal descent, Scope of Work, Rate Sheets, contracts, retention agreements, letters of engagement.

The “Searching for the Living” course will be offered by Leslie Lawson and Kelvin L. Meyers. These two sleuths will demonstrate the special skill sets and resources necessary for identifying and locating living people.

Special guest speaker Debbie Parker Wayne, CG will teach the course “Forensic Techniques for Genetic Genealogy.”

Michael Ramage will present a two-part session entitled “Missing & Unknown Heirs Law and Procedure For the Forensic Genealogist.”

Michael Ramage and Dee Dee King will present “Witness Roles,” distinguishing between serving as a “witness” or an “expert witness,” including legal and ethical considerations. This session will include a mock hostile cross-examination based on a real case.

Michael Ramage will present a special one hour session on “Legal and Ethical Implications of Adoptions” for those considering this specialty.

Friday night, the Institute will host an optional pizza party with special guest speaker Pamela Boyer Sayer, CG. Ms. Sayer will enlighten the group about the latest “Techie Stuff for the Forensic Genealogist.”

The Institute concludes Saturday with the Business Module. “Preparation, Business Structure, and Due Diligence” will be presented by Dee Dee King. CAFG mentor program enrollee Tina Sansone will assist with a short discussion of her first forensic case - the one from hell.

The final session will be “How to Identify Potential Markets and Clients, Examples of Successful Marketing Efforts.” This will be a roundtable discussion with questions and answers.

For more information <http://www.forensicgenealogists.com/forensic-genealogy-institute.html>

CAFG celebrates first anniversary with restructuring of the mentor component

Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy has restructured the mentor program, a component of the professional career ladder. Previously an enrollee in the mentor program did not have CAFG membership status. The restructuring creates a new membership category of Apprentice as a career ladder step to Junior and Senior membership. The new designation bestows full membership status to the mentor component, while offering a clear distinction for the members and the public regarding the professional level of the member. The restructuring includes all present and future mentor program enrollees and is effective immediately.

Update on Save Public Access to SSDI

Several bills are currently pending that would severely limit, or entirely eliminate, public access to the *Death Master File*, *Social Security Death Index (SSDI)*. CAFG presented written testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, February 16, 2012.

In addition to networking with more than fifty bar associations, twenty-nine landmen associations, fifteen title company associations, and numerous attorneys, CAFG and its members wrote letters to more than fifty congressmen as well as the individual House Ways and Means Committee members. Several members also worked to ensure access to those who conduct military repatriation cases. CAFG is investigating the possibility of subscription or other resources for access to SSDI for its members.

feature article

New Opportunities for Forensic Genealogists

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The advanced specialty of forensic genealogy seems to be burgeoning within the field of professional genealogy. "Forensic genealogy" is the hot topic on list serves and in blogs.

Governmental agencies, the legal profession, and business are becoming better educated about the specialty and those who practice it. These entities appear to demonstrate the same expectations of forensic genealogists as for other professionals they would call upon as expert resources.

Each of the military branches contracts with professional genealogists or companies for their military repatriation cases. Respondents must demonstrate credentials, education, and experience. A recent Request for Quotes (RFQ) from the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) illustrates that states are now also seeking out the services of forensic genealogists.

Intestacy cases in Oregon are assigned to the Department of State Lands, where the Director of DSL is appointed personal representative to administer the estates of persons who die intestate without known heirs.

The RFQ included the following language:

To qualify for this contract, the successful applicant must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- A. Be a currently accredited or certified genealogist.
- B. Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in forensic genealogy.
- C. Does not currently:
 1. work for an individual or entity that locates missing or lost heirs for a fee or percentage of the inheritance, or
 2. have ownership of an interest in such an entity, or

3. have an immediate family member (spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, sibling) who either works for such an individual/entity or owns an interest in such an entity.¹

It is interesting to note that the request also barred those who participated in contingency-based heir search. In issuing this RFQ, Oregon was establishing a position within the legal framework of estate management and excluded the potential for a conflict of interest with an entrepreneurial heir searcher.

Oregon's RFQ demonstrates the growing demand for forensic genealogists who can demonstrate credentials, education and experience in order to secure contracts with governmental entities.

Noteworthy

The Board for Certification of Genealogists™ recently renewed certificant status for **Michael S. Ramage, J.D.**, Certified Genealogist.

Tina Sansone recently helped with the discovery of a descendant of POW, Dudley Allen Henson. Henson, formerly of Tennessee and Dover, New Hampshire, died July 10, 1942 while a Prisoner of War on the *Orynoiku Maru* in Manila Harbor, Philippine Islands. In 1942, Henson's unit was transferred to the Philippine Islands where he was captured when the Japanese overran the U.S. forces. The Purple Heart was award to him on October 8, 2008 by the Department of Defense Directive. Dudley and his wife, Elizabeth Theresa Carlin had no children. Through research, a first cousin twice removed was found who will receive the Purple Heart in memory of Dudley Henson.

The organization Mission for the Missing asked for Tina's assistance. Tina worked along side Michelle MacKinnon in this research. Mission for the Missing is a non-profit organization created to locate missing children and adults. (Website: <http://www.missionforthemissing.com>)

Melanie D. Holtz's blog *Finding Our Italian Roots* was named one of *FamilyTree Magazine's* "Top 40 Genealogy Blogs for International Research." "Italy-Finding Our Italian Roots shares the expertise of certified genealogist Melanie D. Holtz, CG. She intersperses news with how-to help and history, such as her 2012 series on 19th-century life in southern Italy." ---FamilyTree Magazine The review is at: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/around-the-world-in-40-blogs>

Michael Hait, CG co-won First Place in the 2012 NGS Family History Writing Contest for his entry "In the Shadow of Rebellions." The **Family History Writing Contest** award is presented to an individual who submits a scholarly article with a compiled family history of at least three generations using a broad variety of research resources. The article will be published in upcoming editions of the NGSQ.

Among CAFG's associates are eight members who conduct research for the Navy and the Army military repatriation programs. Their task is to identify next of kin and those eligible to provide mtDNA or yDNA Family Reference Samples to aid in the identification of remains in cases of unaccounted-for POW/MIAs.

Catherine Desmarais, CG recently solved an Army POW/MIA case in which both her research and Spanish skills were tested as she found living relatives for a soldier from Puerto Rico.

¹ State of Oregon, Department of State Lands, RFQ ORPIN No. 141-1140-12, (<http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/welcome> : accessed 15 July 2012).