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2016 FGI Registration Opened October 4th!

The Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG) opened registration for the fifth annual Forensic Genealogy Institute (FGI) on October 4, 2015 at 1 pm CDT. Participants can register online at www.forensicgenealogists.org/institute.

FGI will be held March 10-12, 2016, at the Menger Hotel at the Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas. Registration for each course is \$445, which includes 20 hours of instruction by expert forensic and genetic genealogists in three days, minimizing travel costs and time away from family and work. With 90 seats available to registrants, FGI 2016 will be one of the largest-ever offering of forensic genealogy training for professional genealogists.

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The 2016 FGI features two practicums designed to provide hands-on instruction for intermediate and advanced forensic genealogists. The three-day Institute will include the following:

- Thursday all attendees will learn about marketing their business with Marian Pierre-Louis as well as how to draft effective client contracts and structure their business with Michael S. Ramage, J.D., CGSM
- Friday and Saturday the attendees will attend one of the two following practicums:
 - Advanced DNA Practicum: a two day Genetic Genealogy Practicum for Unknown Parentage Cases with CeCe Moore and Bethany Waterbury, DVM (see prerequisites)
 - Forensic Genealogy Practicum
 - Friday - Unknown Heirs Practicum: Methodologies from Intake to Completion with Michael S. Ramage, J.D., CGSM
 - Saturday – An Introduction to Forensic Techniques for Genetic Genealogy with Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM

Advanced DNA Practicum

The “Genetic Genealogy Practicum for Unknown Parentage Cases” course applies DNA and traditional genealogical research to uncovering the genetic heritage of individuals with unknown parentage. This area of forensic research is expanding rapidly, and genealogists who can use DNA to successfully address unknown-parentage cases are in great demand. Enrollment is limited to 40 students who have fulfilled the course prerequisites stated on the website.



Forensic Genealogy Practicum

Friday's course is the “Unknown Heirs Practicum: Methodologies from Intake to Completion” which offers hands-on practicum designed to remove the mystique from the missing and unknown heir process. Participants will “work” the case from beginning to end, bring together the relevant facts, documents, cast of characters, and issues of the case.

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Saturday's course, "Introduction to Forensic Techniques for Genetic Genealogy" is perfect for the professional who is interested in adding DNA to their list of services. Participants will be introduced to the foundations of DNA inheritance, analysis techniques, and reporting methods for forensic genealogy. Attendees will participate in hands-on exercises in the following: Y-DNA, mtDNA, and atDNA case studies, and DNA tools. Enrollment is limited to 50 students.

Courses are expected to fill quickly, so register early at:

www.forensicgenealogists.org/institute.

The website includes the institute brochure and faculty biographies.



Menger Hotel Information



This year, the Forensic Genealogy Institute is moving to a brand new venue – the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas! This hotel, the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi, is conveniently located next to the historic Alamo and adjacent to the Riverwalk and Rivercenter Mall, with numerous shopping and dining options.

FGI attendees can stay at the Menger Hotel for the discounted room rate of \$135 per night (plus tax), while availability remains. This price is for single or double occupancy and rooms with 1 king-sized bed or 2 queens-sized beds are available. This discount is available for the nights of March 9-12. Each guest room includes complimentary Wi-Fi and valet parking.

Reservations can be made by calling the Menger Hotel directly at (800) 345-9285. Please mention CAFG Forensic Genealogy Institute to receive the discounted rate. See the CAFG website for more details at: <http://www.forensicgenealogists.org/institute/hotel/>

Macros: Clearing Up the Mystery

By Brent Chadwick

In the Master Practicum course at the Forensic Genealogy Institute in Dallas in March 2015, there were two templates introduced that had macros included in them. Macros seemed to become an instant “buzz” word around the Institute, as participants discussed how they could be used in their research reports.

However, many people do not know what a macro is or what it does, and some people may not have even heard the term. In this article, I will attempt to pull back the curtain of mystery and explain in laymen’s terms what a macro is, does, and how it affects genealogists.

What exactly is a macro?

First the short answer: Macros are like magic; they can make things appear and disappear.

The long answer, according to Microsoft:

A Macro is a single instruction that expands automatically into a set of instructions to perform a particular task. A keyboard stroke or icon can be used to trigger a macro that in turn inserts predetermined text in a document.

What does a macro do?

A macro is like a general giving a command and having all of his troops *immediately complete* his orders. All of our software programs on computers today employ many macros; you just don’t know that they are even there because they are not visible. Any time you use a keyboard shortcut or click on an icon in a program, you are initiating a macro of some kind.

For example: let’s take a look at the macro for inserting a footnote in the *Register* format. When you “insert” a footnote these actions occur:

- A pair of superscripted brackets are inserted.
- The cursor backs up one space.
- A superscripted sequential number is inserted in a field for the footnote reference.
- The cursor is sent to the proper footnote text area
- A superscripted sequential number is inserted in a field for the footnote text
- The cursor is moved the proper place ready to type or paste your text

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All of the above actions occur in just Nano-seconds, as if by magic. Let's look quickly at the code:

```
Sub InsertFootnote()  
,  
' InsertFootnote Macro  
,  
  
Selection.Font.Superscript = wdToggle  
Selection.TypeText Text:="[]"  
Selection.MoveLeft Unit:=wdCharacter, Count:=1  
ActiveDocument.Footnotes.Add _  
Range:=Selection.Range, Reference:=""  
End Sub
```

This example of the code for inserting a footnote is a very small and simplistic macro. There are other much larger macros that have pages and pages of code to run.

How do we apply macros to genealogy?

By now you may have figured out that macros are very fast, much faster than any of us can type. That makes macros an ideal candidate for repetitive tasks. Any task that you do in genealogy, especially repetitive ones, can be performed by a macro and assigned to a keyboard shortcut or an icon. In the next installment of this series I will talk about recording simple macros to get you started working with them.

Brent Chadwick is a professional genealogist located in East Otis, Massachusetts. He loves developing timesaving devices for genealogists to improve the family history research process. His website, www.knoxtrailancestree.com includes many products that may be of use to the professional genealogist.

Volunteers Needed!

CAFG is a volunteer run organization, whose strength lies in the talents and efforts of its members.

CAFG is in the process of forming committees composed of one board member and at least 2 members. It is strongly encouraged that all CAFG members volunteer for at least one of the following committees:

Marketing Committee: Will be involved in creating a marketing plan for CAFG, including marketing to increase membership and visibility of the organization.

Membership Committee: Help create online/print brochures for potential members and streamline the application process.

Forensic Genealogy Institute Committee: Assist with future planning of upcoming Institutes, including venues, content, and speakers.

By-law Review, Policies & Procedures Committee: To periodically review and update CAFG's bylaws to reflect the growth of the organization. Create a Policies and Procedures manual to ensure consistency from year to year.

Website: Create content for the Member's only section of the website.

Finance and Resource Management: Work with the treasurer to provide guidance for the fiscal management of CAFG.

Members in the News

Janice Sellers was selected as one of the speakers at the California State Genealogical Alliance Fall 2015 seminar and Spring 2016 seminar. She also won the Jimmy B. Parker Scholarship for SLIG 2016 and will attend the "Research in the South" course coordinated by J. Mark Lowe.

Board member Sheila Benedict was a speaker at the National Genealogical Society Conference in St. Charles. While there, the "Research in the States – California" text she wrote for NGS was launched.

Sheila also had several other speaking engagements including: speaking at the APG Virtual Chapter meeting on June 1st, and at the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree at a breakfast on June 6th. An all-day workshop in October for the Ventura County (CA) Genealogical Society is planned, with one of the four lectures at the workshop will have examples of Forensic Case Studies she has done.

CAFG member Jerry Smith moved up from Level II to Level III.

Bethany Waterbury, presented her lecture "Breaking Down Brick Walls Using DNA" at the Archives of Michigan's Abram Seminar in July.

Welcome New Members!

Donna D. Downing has over 20 years of experience as a genealogy researcher. She has developed her skills in Forensic Genealogy by working with oil and gas companies and attorneys on in-depth mineral and surface title projects. Aside from determining ownership of these titles, Donna handles title curative resolutions, and conducts probate and family research.

Newly associated with CAFG, Donna is also a member of APG, NGS, AAPL, and TALI. She obtained her bachelor's degree in legal studies at Texas Wesleyan University, has a paralegal certificate, and holds a private investigation license with Texas DPS Private Security Bureau (Private Investigator Lic. #A19339). In March of this year she attended and completed the FGI: Master Practicum. She strives to improve her skills by attending seminars, meetings, and continuing education courses offered by CAFG, APPL, the Texas Bar Association, National Federation of Paralegal Associations, and the National Association of Legal Assistants. Donna's interests lie mainly in the legal, private investigation and genealogy fields.

Charles "Chuck" McGee has been a genealogy researcher since 2000, and a professional genealogist since 2011. He has done family research from South Africa to Germany to California--both personally and for clients--and most recently has been involved in several forensic genealogy cases, which he prefers. Aside from forensics, Chuck is particularly interested in military research, lineage societies and the American Revolutionary War.

Chuck is a member of APG, NGS, and several state and local genealogy societies. He is a Wisconsin State Genealogical Society district representative, as well as 1st VP of the Wisconsin Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and a member of the American Legion. He has a Certificate in Genealogical Research from BU, and has completed the NGS American Genealogy course, Gen Proof Study Group, and various other genealogy courses. In March of this year he attended and completed the FGI: Master Practicum, and looks forward to continuing his genealogical education. Chuck also served in the US Army as a Military Policeman and holds an AA Law Enforcement degree.

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