

# CROSSROADS

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2

SPRING 2021



## 2021 SLIG and Academy Highlights and Annual UGA Awards

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# UGA News

*Cover photo of Catherine Gelula watching SLIG. Photo courtesy of her mother, Irene Rossman*

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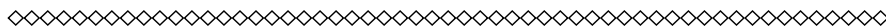
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## **NEW UGA CHAPTERS ~ LEADERS NEEDED**

Tired of the glazed look non-genealogist family members adopt when you start to talk about your research? Our existing chapters provide a unique opportunity to network with other genealogists whose passion for family history matches your own. If there is not an active chapter in your area we would love to help you start one.

The following locations are being considered for new UGA chapters. Please contact us at [info@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:info@ugagenealogy.org) if you are interested in joining and especially leading any of the following chapters:

- UTAH VALLEY



## **ACTIVE UGA CHAPTERS**

### **SALT LAKE VALLEY CHAPTER**

Joel Cannon — President  
Meeting time: 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm MT  
All meetings are currently virtual, see topics under “Local Chapters” at UGA website  
Contact: [salt-lake-valley@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:salt-lake-valley@ugagenealogy.org)

### **SOUTH DAVIS CHAPTER**

Skye Cranor — President  
Meeting time: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm MT  
All meetings are currently virtual, see topics under “Local Chapters” at UGA website  
Contact: [south-davis@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:south-davis@ugagenealogy.org)

### **VIRTUAL CHAPTER**

Michael Strauss and Eric Wells — Co-Chairs  
Meeting time: 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7 pm MT  
View topics under “Virtual Chapter” at UGA website

### **UGA DNA**

Irene Rossman and Alexa Corchoran — Co-Chairs  
Meeting time: 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6 pm MT  
View topics under “UGA DNA” at UGA website

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**Author Submissions:** Submit manuscripts to the *Crossroads* editorial office by e-mail to Gena Philibert-Ortega at [genaortega@gmail.com](mailto:genaortega@gmail.com). Text should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th edition, humanities form); footnotes should follow Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, (Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2007). Feature articles should be between 1,500 - 5,000 words. Accompanying images are preferred.

**UGA Membership:** To join or renew membership send the following information to [info@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:info@ugagenealogy.org): name, address, email address (if applicable), and phone number. Please indicate whether this is an individual membership at \$35, a household membership at \$45, or an institutional/library membership at \$50. Add \$5 if outside of the continental USA. See the UGA website at [www.infouga.org](http://www.infouga.org) for further information.

**Orders for *Crossroads*:** *Crossroads* is the official magazine of the Utah Genealogical Association. To receive the quarterly magazine simply join the Utah Genealogical Association at [www.ugagenealogy.org](http://www.ugagenealogy.org). Orders for additional copies may be made from our website: [www.ugagenealogy.org](http://www.ugagenealogy.org).

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## Membership

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## State of the Association

# President's Message

by Kelly Summers, AG® - UGA President

Spring is the time of year for renewal and new beginnings. We hope that this Spring brings many exciting beginnings for you and your genealogical research including new and renewed relationships with distant cousins and new friends. The Utah Genealogical Association would like to support you in researching your family tree, by providing educational opportunities through our many programs. Visit our website at <https://ugagenealogy.org/> to learn more about our most recent events.

As the UGA President I would like to announce the results of our annual UGA Board elections. This year 4 positions were open. We had 5 excellent people nominated. The nominees were: Tristan Tolman, Elizabeth Miller, Michael Strauss, Tanner Tolman and Bonnie Andersen. Tristan, Elizabeth, Michael and Tanner have all served 3-year terms and were recently re-elected to serve another 3-year term. We appreciate these outstanding individuals and the many hours they contribute to help UGA and its programs. Elizabeth and Tristan have served as UGA vice presidents in addition to serving on

the UGA Conference committee and Publicity committee. Michael serves on the UGA Virtual Chapter committee and Tanner serves on the First Families committee.

In this issue of *Crossroads* magazine, you will learn about our first ever, fully virtual, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) event. We were pleased with the many offerings, the amazing instructors, and eager participants. Read on and learn about the education, fun and awards that were presented virtually this year at SLIG.



*Kelly Summers, Accredited Genealogist® currently works as a part-time faculty member at Brigham Young University teaching Family History and History courses. She also teaches online Genealogy courses at Salt Lake Community College. Kelly has been involved in genealogical research and teaching for more than thirty years.*

*Kelly researches in the US, Latin America, Southwestern European, Scandinavian and East Asian areas. Kelly's research interests lie in kinship research in primary source records and rural community reconstruction.*

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## AUTHOR SUBMISSIONS

UGA CROSSROADS IS LOOKING FOR FEATURE ARTICLES BETWEEN 1,500 - 5,000 WORDS FOR UPCOMING ISSUES - ACCOMPANYING IMAGES ARE PREFERRED.



For more information on submitting an article for UGA's *Crossroads*, contact Gena Philibert-Ortega at [genaortega@gmail.com](mailto:genaortega@gmail.com).



# UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

*Premier Genealogical Education*

- UGA DNA webinars
- Virtual Chapter webinars
- Genealogy Pro Talk webinars
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
- SLIG Academy for Professionals
- SLIG Virtual
- First Families of Utah certificates
- UGA Summit of Excellence

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- Institute and Summit discounts
- Publication and webinar archives

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<https://UGAgenealogy.org>



# Made for Utahns: The Creation of the Utah Genealogical Association

by Ariel Katerina Munyer

In 1971 the *Springville Herald* declared “Utah is one of the few states which does not have a state genealogical society. This will change on September 25, when interested persons from throughout Utah meet in Bountiful to form the Utah Genealogical Association.”<sup>1</sup>

Despite being home to a community steeped in genealogy, Utah was well behind other states that created genealogical societies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The answer as to why the mecca of genealogy suffered this unusually long delay lies at the crossroads of religious and secular organizations dedicated to genealogy in Utah.

Early on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints promoted genealogy in Utah by creating the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) in 1894. The founding of GSU was remarkable considering only two other genealogical societies predated it in the United States.<sup>2</sup> GSU distinguished itself from these by seeking “to collect records from all over the United States and the world...in contrast to most other genealogical societies that [were] more localized in their focus.”<sup>3</sup> GSU remained the sole genealogical society in Utah until 1971 when a combination of internal and external factors relating to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

made Utah genealogists realize they needed a society with a local focus. The national movement for professionalization within the genealogy community drove for these changes, which culminated in the creation of the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) in 1971.

Despite UGA’s important place in Utah’s long tradition of genealogy, the story of its establishment remains largely untold. A brief article, “Spotlight on UGA,” proudly declared Jerry Wells, a GSU employee, to be the father of UGA. It lauded his vision for an organization “that would promote education and professional standards in genealogy.”<sup>4</sup> Two larger issues shaped Wells’ vision for UGA, including the professionalization of genealogy and the correlation effort to centralize and standardize genealogy within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## Professionalism

Professionalism served as the buzzword among genealogists during the 1960s and 1970s. The desire to professionalize genealogy coincided with the overall emergence of social history, a push for greater recognition of ordinary people alongside

1 “Group to Form Genealogical Association Now,” *Springville Herald*, September 23, 1971, p. 9, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s61z7vpf>.

2 Dallen J. Timothy and Jeanne Kay Guelke, *Geography and Genealogy: Locating Personal Pasts* (New York: Routledge, 2008), 145.

3 Ibid 145.

4 Elaine Justesen “Spotlight on UGA” *Genealogical Journal* vol. 26, no. 1 (March 1998): 49. Accessed February 15, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

the traditional study of great men. P. William Filby appeared at the forefront of this movement, first as a librarian for the Peabody Institute, and then as the chief librarian and later director of the Maryland Historical Society.<sup>5</sup> His efforts to organize the society's materials led him to write a book entitled *American and British Genealogy and Heraldry*. The book discusses the holdings a genealogical library should obtain and soon became the gold standard for genealogical libraries across the nation.<sup>6</sup>

D. J. Steel, a genealogist, and Edward Saveth, an historian, added their voices to the call for professional genealogy. At the World Conference on Records and Genealogical Seminar in 1969, Steel spoke about the decade's emphasis on family. He encouraged genealogists to harness this enthusiasm to gain professional recognition.<sup>7</sup> In the same year, Edward Saveth bemoaned the underdevelopment of the genealogical community. He urged genealogists to realize the full potential of a robust academic genealogical community in partnership with professional historians.<sup>8</sup> Genealogists united behind these men in striving for a higher standard in their research and wanted to obtain professional recognition considering they were constantly derided by the diminutive nickname of 'genies.' While the genealogical community explored big dreams, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was also transforming its approach to genealogy.

## Correlation

The effort to centralize and standardize genealogical work developed in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the 1960s and was part of the overall Correlation movement which happened when leaders recognized a need for programs to proceed in harmony churchwide in an increasingly global church. As a result, on 31 October 1961, Harold B. Lee, member of the second-highest governing body of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, announced, "that all Church programs were to be correlated through the priesthood to strengthen the family and the individual."<sup>9</sup> Correlation focused on four areas: welfare (taking care of the poor), home teaching (visiting and befriending fellow church members), missionary work (outreach to the community outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), and genealogy.<sup>10</sup>

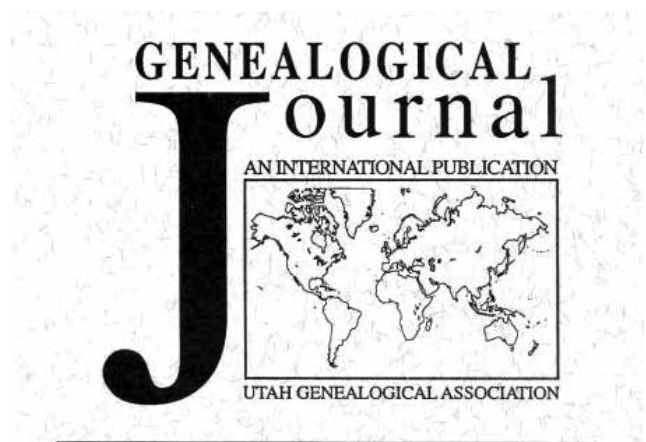
This announcement directly impacted GSU's functions and objectives. As a member of the board of directors and later as the president of GSU, Howard W. Hunter's implementation of correlation caused many changes in the institution during the 1960s.<sup>11</sup> Training on the new correlative effort revealed that the focus of the society moving forward would be to "collect and make available the records of the world."<sup>12</sup> Thus, the responsibility of genealogical research and education shifted from GSU to local congregants. As a result, GSU had to reconfigure itself to meet the new objectives

- 5 Frederick N. Rasmussen, "P. William Filby, 90, Chief Librarian, Director of Maryland Historical Society," *Baltimoresun.com*, December 08, 2018, accessed April 09, 2019, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2002-11-09-0211090177-story.html>.
- 6 Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, "Four Centuries of Genealogy: A Historical Overview," *RQ* 23, no. 2 (Winter 1983): 166-167, accessed April 15, 2019, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25827121>.
- 7 Donald J. Steel, *Demography, Genetics and Genealogy: Family Reconstruction* (Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969), 2.
- 8 "View EDWARD SAVETH's Obituary on NYTimes.com and Share Memories," *EDWARD SAVETH Obituary - New York, NY | New York Times*, accessed April 15, 2019, <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?n=edward-n-saveth&pid=144361307>. Edward N. Saveth, "The Problem of American Family History," *American Quarterly* 21, no. 2 (Summer 1969): 311-312, accessed April 15, 2019, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2711944>.
- 9 "Correlation Announced," September 30, 1961, accessed 15 April 2019, <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/correlation-announced?lang=eng>.
- 10 John Fugal, comp., *A Review of Priesthood Correlation* (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1968), 1.
- 11 James B. Allen, Jessie L. Embry, and Kahlile B. Mehr, *Hearts Turned to the Fathers: A History of the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1894-1994* (Provo, UT: BYU Studies, Brigham Young University, 1995), 174.
- 12 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Priesthood Genealogy Handbook: Priesthood Genealogy Work in the Stake* (Salt Lake City, UT: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1968), 24.

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defined by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.<sup>13</sup> This critical point of departure put GSU in a unique position of choosing between the divergent paths of professional genealogy and correlation in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The combined pressure of professionalization and correlation forced GSU to adapt. Correlation caused GSU to shift its attention from education and research to the pursuit of Filby's gold standard for genealogical libraries. This effort propelled the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to obtain a wide variety of records and it became world renowned for its number, variety, and quality of genealogical resources. In addition, GSU decreased the research staff available to patrons at the library and instead provided a list of genealogists who possessed the society's Accredited Genealogist® credential to those who wanted professional help. However, the lack of assistance at the library caused problems for patrons. Limited access to microfilm and book stacks created a bottleneck due to the fact that visitors were only allowed to request a single item at a time. GSU ultimately adapted and opened its stacks to the public in 1965, which provided a somewhat better experience, but many remained unsatisfied.<sup>14</sup> The Temple Records Index Bureau (TIB) formed a crucial resource for Latter-day Saint research since it often contained birth, marriage, and death information. In the 1960s, a patron paid one dollar for an employee or researcher to research the index.<sup>15</sup> Jerry D. Wells, the manager of the TIB, explained that accredited researchers offered ideas for improving access to that file. However, their suggestions did not come to fruition because a team effort was required, and such a team did not exist. This led Wells to conclude that, "an independent genealogical body, neither controlled nor dominated by the Church, could fill an important need, not



in a competitive role but with the two bodies complimenting and assisting each other.<sup>16</sup> Out of this experience the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) began.

## The Vision

The Convention of Genealogists of the State of Utah, held 18 February 1971, instigated the formal creation of UGA. Theodore M. Burton, chief administrative officer of GSU, spoke at the meeting. He expressed surprise that Utah had not already formed an independent genealogical association and applauded Wells for spearheading the effort. He promised GSU's support for the fledgling association. Burton envisioned UGA as a place for all Utahns to share their knowledge and pursue genealogy with the highest standards of methodological rigor.<sup>17</sup>

The former director of the Utah Historical Society, Charles S. Peterson, spoke after Burton. He pointed out that GSU sought to expand to "the corners of the earth" in its pursuit of the human family. In contrast, UGA's creation would connect Utahns to local genealogy. He explained that The Church

<sup>13</sup> Ibid p. 172

<sup>14</sup> Ibid pp. 186-187

<sup>15</sup> A Brief Guide to the Temple Records Index Bureau. Salt Lake City, UT: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saint, 1979.

<sup>16</sup> Jerry D. Wells "Prospectus" Genealogical Journal vol. 1, no. 1 (March 1972): 3-8. Accessed February 13, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

<sup>17</sup> Theodore M. Burton "Keynote Address" Genealogical Journal vol. 1, no. 2 (June 1972): 35-41. Accessed February 14, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.



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of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints genealogical efforts were good, but that it was encouraging to see a group like UGA, “build and support genealogy in such ways as [it] deem[ed] possible.”<sup>18</sup> With these dreams and grand pronouncements in mind, the UGA began on 25 September 1971 with Jerry D. Wells as president.

A year after the initial meeting on 19 February 1972, Wells addressed the newly formed group with excitement. He saw UGA as an opportunity to unify professional researchers and genealogists statewide in a way that GSU never could as a non-traditional genealogical society with a global scope. He spoke of chapters where members could share their expertise in local history and eventually other regions throughout the United States and the world that pertained to family history in Utah.<sup>19</sup> T. Harold Jacobsen, the state archivist, followed Wells’ speech with an explanation of records preserved within the state archives and available to genealogists.<sup>20</sup> The emphasis on UGA’s local focus in these speeches highlighted the beginning of a legacy.

## The Realization

Two years after its creation, UGA received a glowing review from P. William Filby, the man credited with leading the professionalization effort that eventually inspired the founding of UGA. Congratulating the young association’s journal in 1973 he said, “Although not tied to the Latter-day Saints, the authors and staff are, in most instances, closely attached to it, thereby guaranteeing an authentic and factual journal, untrammelled with false or conjectural claims and articles.”<sup>21</sup> Filby’s positive remark on UGA’s close attachment to The

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands out, considering that the early speeches of Burton, Peterson, Wells, and Jacobsen point towards distinguishing the professional pursuits of UGA as independent from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and GSU.

The creation of a state genealogical society revealed a desire for genealogy to become an ecumenical hobby in Utah. Since GSU started long before UGA and provided UGA with many members and leadership, their relationship forged new ground. The founders of UGA recognized the need to make room for other community members in genealogical pursuits. Ultimately, despite these early hopes, UGA followed GSU closely with respect to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint’s involvement. At least ten of the fourteen original leaders of UGA were members of the Church and worked in GSU. The strong presence of church members and GSU employees in UGA indicated they did not fully realize their ecumenical goal and points to another motive—research. Naturally, researchers with the credentials and experience to power UGA were in GSU. As an entity, GSU’s focus shifted, but individuals from GSU still contributed their expertise to the new Utah focus of UGA.

Naturally, GSU employees shared a vested interest in the success of UGA. Many of them, like Jerry Wells, had experiences that encouraged their support of a new organization. A review of the first four volumes of *Genealogical Journal*, UGA’s periodical, reveals that most of the authors worked for GSU or Brigham Young University Genealogical Research Center, both organizations closely tied to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.<sup>22</sup> In addition, most authors held an

18 Peterson, Charles S. "Searching the Past to Serve the Present" *Genealogical Journal* vol. 2, no. 3 (September 1973): 79-83. Accessed February 15, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

19 Jerry D. Wells "Prospectus" *Genealogical Journal* vol. 1, no. 1 (March 1972): 3-8. Accessed February 13, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

20 T. Harold Jacobsen, "The Utah State Archives" *Genealogical Journal* vol. 1, no. 2 (June 1972): 35-41. Accessed February 14, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

21 P. W. Filby "Genealogical Journal Reviewed" *Genealogical Journal* vol. 2, no. 3 (September 1973): 83. Accessed February 13, 2019. <https://ugagenealogy.org>.

22 Today UGA’s journal is entitled *Crossroads*.

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Accredited Genealogist credential indicating they had taken GSU's accreditation test. Despite these ties, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint's genealogical rhetoric did not fill these articles. Except for a few reprinted speeches from early meetings, the articles focused on genealogical research in Utah or other localities in and outside the United States. The educational tone and attention to methodology embodied the desired professionalism. An array of topics kept all skill levels in mind, ranging from discussions of the genealogical process to research in Sweden. As such, UGA successfully realized its goal to maintain and disseminate high genealogical research standards in Utah.

UGA's creation prepared Utah to join the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) in 1976.<sup>23</sup> FGS saw a need for cooperation between genealogical societies and brought together several of them from across the United States in order to "provide a clearinghouse—a center for an exchange of information—for organized groups to avoid duplication of projects, efforts, and keep informed on activities, conferences, and projects being undertaken in North America."<sup>24</sup> Utah, through UGA, joined this national conversation and earned greater legitimacy and resources for the association. GSU, a church institution, could not take this step since it stood outside the traditional circle of state-based genealogical societies.

## Conclusion

The 1960s and 1970s brought a great deal of change to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its relationship with Utah's genealogical community. Each pursued improvement in a way that pushed GSU to adapt. GSU encouraged the emergence of UGA to provide services that GSU discontinued or never offered. Thus, UGA filled the needs of a church and a state during a time of great change. The creation of UGA also enabled

Utah to enter the national dialog about genealogy in a manner that a church institution could not. Later, GSU transformed into the Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as FamilySearch today. FamilySearch successfully transcended the divide between the Church institution GSU and traditional genealogical societies, becoming one of the most prominent genealogical organizations in the world. While FamilySearch continues to expand its scope, UGA remains focused on the local history and genealogy of Utah. UGA persists because it fills a gap left by FamilySearch's international nature. Today, UGA continues to preserve and share Utah's history with a strict adherence to the best genealogical practices.

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<sup>23</sup> FGS no longer exists, it merged with the National Genealogical Society in 2020.

<sup>24</sup> "Our History," Federation of Genealogical Societies, accessed April 15, 2019, <https://fgs.org/about/our-history/>.

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Ariel Munyer is a recent Brigham Young University graduate with a degree in family history with a focus on French research. She learned to love family history by her parents' example and discusses research with them often. Though she studied French in high school, it became a true passion when she lived in France for a year and learned to love all things French. These passions are combined in doing genealogical research for French friends. She currently works as a research contractor for Price Genealogy and Family Locket Genealogists. When she isn't working she enjoys hiking with her husband, trying new foods, and spending time with family.

# UGA Awards at January 2021 Banquet

by UGA Board

## **2021 UGA FELLOW (FUGA)**

*Angela Packer McGhie, CG*

The UGA Fellow recognizes one “whose distinguished contributions and on-going commitment to the field of Genealogy are of national or international scope, this award may be evidenced by any combination of publications, teaching, and speaking, or the leadership of major genealogical organizations over a significant period of time.”



In addition to these strictly outlined qualifications, the UGA Board of Directors felt strongly about this year's Fellow for another reason. The slogan, “Premier Genealogical Education,” utilized by UGA, demonstrates our core values and goals as a society. Many have been recipients of these efforts, none more clearly than the students who have attended SLIG. Our Fellow this year is someone who has been an ally in these goals and contributed tirelessly in her career to uphold and promote the ideals of “Premier Genealogical Education” in her every effort. The UGA Board of Directors was pleased to award the UGA Fellow to Angela Packer McGhie.

Angela has a passion for teaching genealogy. She has been a continued partner with UGA in these

efforts for many years, having presented for UGA Webinars, coordinated and instructed for SLIG, and served on the advisory committee. In 2011, Angela changed the SLIG experience by pioneering and coordinating the Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum which will run for its tenth consecutive year this fall. In 2018, the Practicum became the first virtual SLIG course, again steering a new path for both SLIG and UGA to bring quality education to genealogists everywhere. Angela also coordinates The Art of Writing Research Reports course for SLIG Academy.

Beyond UGA, Angela's efforts to support genealogical education have reached across our community. She coordinates additional courses for the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research, instructs at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and Genealogical Institute on Federal Records, and speaks at numerous national and regional conferences.

Angela is known for her leadership in educational programs. She served as the administrator of the ProGen Study Group from 2010 to 2016 and continues to serve on the board of directors. She is the Education Director for the National Genealogical Society, the vice president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, trustee for the BCG Education Fund, and is past-president of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Angela has truly dedicated herself to the cause of genealogical education and her years of effort and service have changed the face of education



# UGA Awards

in our community. Her actions and energy in promoting these goals reflect not only excellent genealogical work but have been done with a sense of service, deep humility, and kindness of spirit. She has been a champion of quality, obtainable programs that have enhanced the skills, lives, and research of myriads of genealogists. UGA is proud to award her the Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association.

## SILVER TRAY AWARD 2021

*Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA*

The Silver Tray honors “Scholarly Contributions to the field of Genealogy” and “has traditionally been given for publication efforts.”



This year’s Silver Tray award honors someone who has touched our field, genealogy education and standards, and publication efforts in profound ways: Elizabeth Shown Mills.

If we outlined everything that Elizabeth has accomplished in her distinguished career, we would be reading for days. The number of honors and awards she has received is astounding, and every one of them well deserved. Elizabeth is a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, Fellow of the National Genealogical Society, and was awarded the Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association in 1990.

She is the author and editor of several books, including *Evidence Explained*, *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors Lecturers, and Librarians*, and *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*. Her articles have appeared in the most notable

genealogy publications of our time: *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *The Virginia Genealogist*, *OnBoard*, *The American Genealogist*, *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and more. She additionally provided sixteen years of dedicated service as the editor of *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Even beyond traditional authorship and publishing, Elizabeth’s efforts to educate and empower our community have extended to videos, study aids, online lessons, social media engagement, and blogging. In fact, it is these extra efforts that place Elizabeth above and beyond in our field and inspired us to honor her with this award today. It demonstrates a desire to not just teach, but to establish a conversation and lead others to new heights in meaningful and interactive ways. In teaching us about the “FAN club” she has created her own “FAN club” that spans the width and breadth of our community.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*Kelly Summers, AG*

The UGA Distinguished service award “is granted for outstanding service to the Association.” At the SLIG 2021 banquet, this award was presented to UGA’s current president: Kelly Summers.



Kelly has been a stalwart leader and advocate for UGA. In her role she has sought to participate in, enhance, and bring forward new UGA programs and educational opportunities. Kelly has championed better compensation to our webinar presenters and Crossroad’s magazine contributors. She envisioned and developed a new webinar series for aspiring professional genealogists, the Genealogy Pro Talk webinar is now one of UGA’s month offerings. Under her leadership the

# UGA Awards

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy has continued to grow and offer more expansive advanced education opportunities, including Kelly's recent coordination of the Chinese Ancestry course.

Kelly has served on the executive committee for the past 5 years and has been president of UGA for the past 4 years. During her time, we have seen immense growth in membership and offerings. She has also demonstrated quality leadership and sound judgement. She has counseled with and guided the UGA board through tough discussions and challenging decisions and helped us to enhance the goal of offering premier genealogical education.

Beyond UGA, Kelly is an Accredited Genealogist through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists in the US Midwestern, US Pacific, Mexico, and Spain regions. She holds a bachelor's degree in Family and Community History from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in Instructional Design and Educational Technology from the University of Utah. Kelly designs curriculum and teaches university courses at Brigham Young University and Salt Lake Community College. Kelly continues to support genealogy education inside and out of UGA, and the board of directors is honored to grant her this distinguished award.

## CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

*Zachary Hamilton*

The Chapter Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding service to or for a UGA chapter. The award was created in 1999, and has been given only eight times since. This year we were pleased to honor



Zachary Hamilton, who has dedicated countless hours to ensuring the success of our UGA local chapters.

Zachary spearheaded the renewal of the Salt Lake City Chapter and grew it from a few periodic attendees to a thriving community that met monthly at the Family History Library. After serving for a year as Salt Lake City Chapter President, he was elected to the UGA Board of Directors and became co-chair of the Chapter Support Committee. Zachary designed an annual multi-chapter event which is now held every November, and has assisted the individual chapters in marketing, technical support, training, acquiring speakers, budgeting, and other activities. His service has been invaluable, especially as we have transitioned to holding chapter meetings online during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Zachary is the owner of Briick Family Research. A specialist in Southern US research and military records, Zachary has worked for and contracted with some of the leading genealogy companies in the world, including Ancestry.com and The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Zachary holds a BA in History and an AAS in Office Management. Zachary has also been a contributing researcher to the Emmy-nominated television series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*

In addition to his research experience, Zachary is a lecturer at regional conferences across the country, including RootsTech and has been a guest speaker for genealogy courses at Brigham Young University - Idaho and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Zachary currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Utah Genealogical Association and as registrar for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Zachary is a member of the Utah Genealogical Association and Association of Professional Genealogists.

# Genealogists and the Law at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and Beyond

by Lynn Broderick

“The law is anything but boring,” says Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL. “It depends,” is a phrase often attributed to her as well in the genealogy community.

At the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, Judy ensures that the law will be “anything but boring”; no doubt about it. Her Scots-Irish storytelling coupled with her New Jersey demeanor guarantees both entertainment and instruction. Just don’t ask her about New Jersey research. She will claim she knows nothing, even if it pertains to current events. Born in Colorado, her roots stem from Germany on her father’s side and the American South on her mother’s side. She even has an affectionate relationship with her second great-grandfather, George Washington Cottrell, and his antics that you can read about on her blog, *The Legal Genealogist* <<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>>. It’s obvious that she enjoys having an uncontested word about this colorful character. I wonder if he ever envisioned a second great-granddaughter like her. Regardless, she, in collaboration with others, created a series of institute courses that meet the need of today’s genealogists to understand the law.

So, when did consideration of the law become foundational to the study of genealogy? I found it interesting that this was not always the case. Initially, genealogists were interested in collecting names, dates, and places of key events. They used documents created by church and civil governments to fill this need, but an actual understanding of the intent and process of the creation of the documents was inconsequential. As long as the information

was there, the genealogist was satisfied. I think it is important to remember that not so long ago access to these records was a genealogist’s victory. Many times it required a mailed letter, a check, and a long waiting period. There was no such thing as the Internet, email, and credit card payment options. Even though phone communication was available as landlines, its associated costs were prohibitive in many cases.

Just imagine what would have been required from a genealogist to obtain information about the law and its creation that is available to us today via Google Books <<https://books.google.com/>>, HathiTrust <<https://www.hathitrust.org/>>, and Internet Archive <<https://archive.org/>>. If you were conducting United States research, you would most likely have needed to live near a law library, a state capitol, or Washington, D.C. Val D. Greenwood, genealogist and author of *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy*, decided to go to law school to meet his need to understand the records and the law. Later Benjamin B. Spratling, III, LL., M., JD. was one of the first to teach about the law to genealogists at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR) in 1992. During that time, the price required to travel to Alabama and stay for a full week was out of reach for most family historians.

A shift began happening at the advent of the Internet when genealogists began crowdsourcing online. The U.S. GenWeb Project began in 1996, Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) was established in 1999 and, in that same year, FamilySearch launched

## SLIG

an online presence. Although IGHR was established in 1962 and transitioned to a full week of instruction in 1965, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy held its first institute in 1996! Another shift occurred in 2000 when Brigham Young University's Computerized Family History and Genealogy Conference decided to move its two-day conference to Salt Lake City, Utah, during the time when the National Genealogical Society held its conference in 2010. It is interesting to note that the conference schedule listed two specific presentations on the law, compact disc (CD) education was all the rage, and RootsTech was conceived.

Then in 2012 Judy Russell, a genealogist with a law degree, began writing her blog, *The Legal Genealogist*. It was her purpose, in part, "to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history. Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened."

In 2014 the National Genealogical Society saw the need and published *Genealogy and the Law: A Guide to Legal Sources for the Family Historian* by Kay Haviland Freilich and William B. Freilich. In the preface the authors write, "Only recently have genealogists added the law to their arsenal of research tools...Concentrated study of the general field of law as it affects genealogy is much more a phenomenon of the twenty-first century and perhaps the ten or fifteen years preceding the turn of the century. Slowly legal topics have joined the list of course offerings at educational institutes, conferences, workshops, and lectures and more are appearing every year."

In that same year, Judy announced that she and Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, developed a course that would be offered at the 2015 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, *The Family History Law Library*. It would take me until 2019 to take the course myself, but I described it then with this sentiment: "although I have spent time in law libraries and in research, digging into the websites recommended in this course makes me feel like a kid in a candy shop!"





# SLIG

At the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, course offerings vary each year. *The Family History Law Library* was offered in 2015, 2017, 2019. This course, or its sister course at the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), *Law School for Genealogists*, is prerequisite to the next course, *Corpus Juris: Advanced Legal Concepts for Genealogy*.

The difference between these two foundational courses is the breadth of instruction. At SLIG the course offered instruction in Irish law from David Rencher, German law from Warren Bittner, and civil law from Claire Bettag. Claire's examples were from Louisiana, a civil law state, and France, but its application spanned to other areas of French and Spanish influence as well as continental Europe. I have no doubt that the course at GRIP offers compensatory instruction. The one additional instructor both courses have in common is Marian L. Smith, the now-retired historian of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Historian (1988-2003) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Historian (2003-2018). It is always a treat to learn from such an authority on immigration in the United States.

Once a genealogist has taken one of these prerequisite courses, *Corpus Juris: Advanced Legal Concepts for Genealogy* provided for further education. It was offered onsite in 2020 and offered virtually in 2021. This course provided an opportunity to delve deeper into legal concepts. In addition to Judy's instruction, instructors included LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, Rick Sayre, the Rev. David McDonald, DMin, Thomas W. Jones, and George Ryskamp. Sessions focused not only on United States legal systems and the records produced, but also on legal research tips and techniques. The virtual course missed the opportunity to visit the University of Utah's James E. Faust Law Library, but thanks to Rick Sayre, the course received access to two key databases for our hands-on experience.

One of my surprise findings was a death of a relatively young member of my extended family. We hadn't heard from him since his father's funeral.

Every once in a while my mom would say, "I wonder what happened to him?" It appears that he died in an accident, left a young son, and a lawsuit commenced when insurance failed to pay. There is no obituary, no listing on Find-a-Grave, and, given his age, death would not be the place one's mind would wander and wonder. In fact, my mother had me confirm and reaffirm the information I found in her disbelief.

Other research yielded context around a railroad accident that happened in the mid-1800s and the general instruction I received in this course led me to a query about a murder that took place around the turn of the 20th century that is leading to informative outcomes. Be aware that there is required homework in this course. I am most fortunate that the course coordinator allowed an additional week to complete assignments since I was preoccupied with these other findings.

In January 2022 Judy Russell's new course will debut, *On Beyond Zed: Hands-On with Advanced Legal Analysis*, "Zed" meaning the letter Z. This upcoming course will take you beyond the alphabet of legalese and into a practicum of experience. According to Judy, this course will work with "actual legal cases and documents, integrating the laws, the context of time and place, and more, to help advancing genealogists glean all the clues and nuances from the records we work with. Each day (or half-day) will focus on an area of the law--probate, land law, the law of slavery and the like--with instruction led by a subject expert." Although the details are yet to be published on the Utah Genealogical Association's website, it is my understanding that the previous law courses are prerequisite to this new course. It is scheduled to be offered onsite at the Hilton in Salt Lake City. Registration will open August 2021.



*Lynn Broderick, a.k.a., the Single Leaf, is a professional genealogist who researches individuals of the past in the context of family, community, and social history. For more information visit [thesingleleaf.com](http://thesingleleaf.com).*

# SLIG 2021: A Virtual Education

by Donna Hansen Peterson

When the pandemic threatened to shut down genealogy institutes like the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Director Peg Ivanyo and her amazing committee set about making it happen virtually! They worked all summer and fall to convert the traditional classroom setting to a virtual one. Instructors modified their syllabi to provide an enriching program in a foreign element.

Everyone did their best and put all their efforts into making SLIG 2021 as close to the previous SLIG offerings as possible. They succeeded overwhelmingly!

In early June, the social media blitz began with SLIG ambassadors posting to their blogs and on Facebook. There was a Facebook group for SLIG attendees where updates kept everyone aware of approaching deadlines. Many of the Facebook posts included the link for the Utah Genealogy Association website where more information such as the SLIG brochure and class information was available.

The exciting news was that the new virtual SLIG format allowed for two weeks of classes instead of only one! Without the expense of travel, hotels, and meals, the Institute became more affordable for many and the option of taking more than one class was also attractive. All signs were pointing to an excellent experience.

August 8, 2020 dawned, and it was time for online registration. Wow, within three minutes the system crashed! After several attempts to open registration again, it was decided to postpone for a week and make corrections. When registration re-opened, all went smoothly, and courses filled rapidly. There were 14 courses to select from, given over a two-week period

with about 30 seats each. SLIG Academy registration was held a week later, once again filling rapidly.

Now it was time to wait for eager attendees while Peg and her committee worked on the mechanics of holding a virtual institute and making it as similar as possible to previous years.

Cinda Baxter was the Zoom expert on the committee and conceived the idea of a contest (with a prize) to change the name of the room monitors to something different and catchy. Mckell Keeney was the winner with the suggestion of “Hive Minders” for the tech hosts.

So, Hive Minders (reflecting Utah’s status as the Beehive State) was born, and the request went out to those who would like to help. The Hive Minders would have their work cut out for them keeping the instructors and students on track! Hive Minders received lots of training in the technical aspects of Zoom so they could help students with logging in or unmuting themselves. Hive Minders were also charged with letting people into the Zoom course room, making class recordings, watching the chat, keeping track of the time, and making announcements. They were really busy. The Hive Minder for one of my courses, even kept track of suggested relevant books and created a list of 50 books which she sent to the attendees. Thanks Kristi Sexton!

Cinda also created “Zoom Ziplines” which were hints on using Zoom to enhance the learning experience. Little things like “How to view more chicklets (the tiny profile pictures of attendees) on the main screen” and “How to reduce ambient noise.”

# SLIG

Her comment: “A (carefully redacted) peek at what Mission Control looks like with seven Zoom rooms open simultaneously... ..and this in only one screen. Other screens are set up with AirTable, Zoom web interface, email, etc.



*Cinda's "mission control center with screens open to seven classrooms.*

NOW you know why I picked up a one-pound bag of peanut M&Ms for each week of SLIG plus a fourth for good measure).

SLIG Orientation for both weeks was held on Sunday, January 10, 2021. The theme for SLIG 2021 was “Commitment to Excellence.” SLIG Director Peg Ivanyo introduced the instructors for all fourteen classes and announced the number of students, the states and countries represented, and awarded the door prizes. Then it was time for the entertainment, we were treated to a wonderful assortment of toe-tapping music that had us dancing and spinning in our office chairs!

On Monday, January 11 at promptly 9am (CST) classes began. As usual, the first session was mostly a “Meet and Greet” and introduction of the various instructors, and broad overview of the course. Then the fun began! As others have said in previous years “It was like drinking from a fire hose!”

My class for week 1 was “Advanced Genealogical Methods” with Paul K Graham. His associate instructors were Thomas W Jones, PhD, CG, FASG,

FUGA, FNGS; Judy G Russell, JD, CG, CGL; Richard G Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA; and Paul Woodbury, MEd. Just this list of top genealogists should indicate the wide range of topics that would be covered during the week. My first “aha moment” of the week was when Paul shared a diagram of the Evaluation Process which he has expanded from the one originally created by Elizabeth Shown Mills. It helps to explain the GPS Elements 3 and 4. Other topics covered during the week included research questions, transcription, military and pension records, and land records, but the course wasn't limited to those alone. Week 1 went by quickly as we were buried under all the new information we were exposed to. In Advanced Methods for Genealogy, we learned how to find military records and what information they may hold, the importance of knowing the laws of the time and place we are researching, how to use DNA clustering to determine relationships, and other topics. The discussion was free flowing and lively at the end of each lecture.

Comments overheard that first week:

Linda Harms Okazaki: “When you are blown away by the content of your SLIG course and have barely come up for air... (two dots or three, Josh?) all I can say is Thank you Josh Taylor! Excited for what the rest of the week has in store. Two of my favorite speakers are scheduled for later this week, Melinda Kashuba and Gena Philibert Ortega , so I'd say we are on a roll.”

Tierra Cotton-Kellow: “Judy's slide with the ice cream cones explaining Public & Private law inspired me!

Something to consider when SLIG resumes in person... Ice Cream Stations?

#PressingMyWay”

Paula Stuart-Warren:

“Instructors have home -work, too. Reviewing my two presentations for Annette's Migration course tomorrow. Never satisfied. Just added some things that I thought of after other presentations today.”

Cheri Hudson Passey: “Right? Won't even tell you how long I stayed up last night getting ready for my

# SLIG

classes today! Always something to tweak and make better! But it's worth it when you see someone made a discovery or learned a new concept. Thanks for your example of a good instructor, Paula!"

Other comments included "no waiting in the ladies' room" and "where's the mid-morning coffee, tea, and hot chocolate?"

Lunchtime was an invitation to bring your own lunch and join others at SLIG Central or one of the many breakout rooms for a chance to visit with friends and make new friends. Many of the classrooms were also open for visiting during the lunch break.

In 2020 a new SLIG group was established: They were also well represented this year with Henry the Sleuth and Wednesday the Elk among the critters returning in 2021. Shadow traveled from Australia.



Wednesday the ELK inspected Kathleen Doherty Kaldas' SLIG SWAG. SLIG Swag this year didn't include lanyards and name tags but it did include face masks! Other items included hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, and disposable gloves.

New to SLIG this year were the Critters who wouldn't fit into a suitcase! They were as varied as their owners!

Pamela Groth has Roxie keeping her place warm. Lennox, owned by Debra Koehler, puts himself in a corner and pouts when Mama is on the computer.

In between the two weeks of SLIG classes, there was a week of "hands-on" workshops and sponsored activities to keep us busy.

Week two of SLIG began bright and early January 25<sup>th</sup>! My class for the week was "Advanced Practices in

Social History" with Gena Philibert-Ortega. Gena and her associate instructors, Gideon D Hill, MD; Judy G Russell, JD, CG, CGL; and Michael L Strauss, AG opened our eyes to the many possibilities of adding to the lives of our ancestors by digging deeply into records and history. Looking into secret societies, military records and land records can help to understand the "whys" of our ancestors. Dr Gideon Hill helped us to learn to think like historians by demonstrating the Historian's Tool Kit. After Gena's lecture about the Social History of Food, many of us gathered in a break-out room for lunch and a discussion of the sandwich we chose from the ideas Gena supplied of menus and recipes from the 1920s and 1930s. I chose to make a baked bean on Boston Brown Bread sandwich. Easy right? Only two ingredients. Not so much here in Texas – Boston Brown Bread is not a grocery store staple. Amazon to the rescue. There was a variety of choices and from the menus I looked at, Olive Sandwiches seemed to be popular at the time. I might have to try one, however whether green or black olives were involved was not specified.

SLIG 2021 ended with an evening Virtual Banquet and keynote speaker LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson speaking on the SLIG 2021 Theme: Commitment to Excellence. LaBrenda stated: "Excellence is not an Act but a Habit." She emphasized that excellence is not about being perfect but rather doing one's personal best. Encouragement is needed and we need to pursue our passion, face down challenges, and always go the extra mile.

Following LaBrenda's keynote, SLIG awards were given to Elizabeth Shown Mills, Kelly Sommers, and Zachary Hamilton. Door prizes were awarded and in the tradition of SLIG, the class list and dates for SLIG 2022 were announced.



*Donna Peterson began doing genealogy after moving to Florida from the Chicago area. She currently lives near San Antonio, TX. She is tracking her grandchildren's ancestors and blogs about her genealogy adventures at [Hanging from the Family Tree at Hangingwithdonna.blogspot.com](http://HangingfromtheFamilyTreeatHangingwithdonna.blogspot.com).*



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# Academy 2021 Course Photos



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# 2021 Course Photos



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# 2021 Course Photos



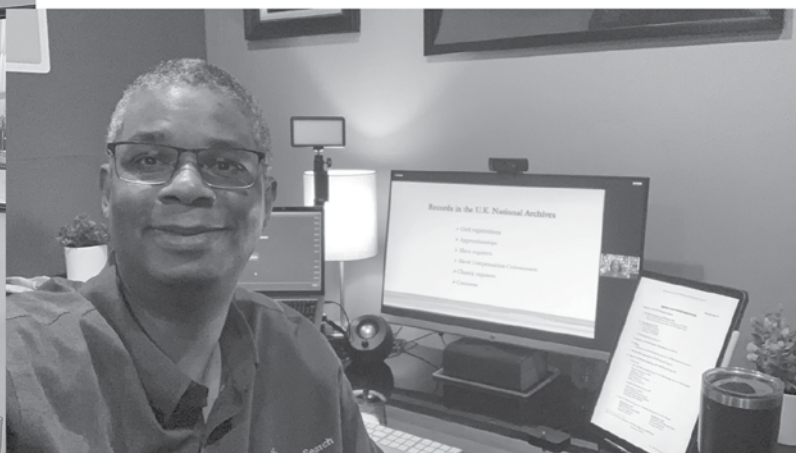
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# 2021 Course Photos

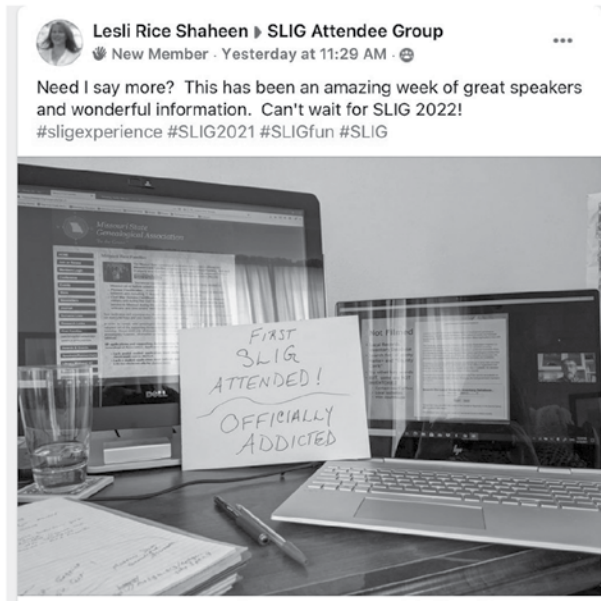




# SLIG Memories



# SLIG Memories



*Soup's on!*





# Crossroads for Kids

inviting kids to connect with their ancestors

## Family Recipe Share!

Food holds a special place in many cultures and homes! Some recipes are special because they have been passed down through multiple generations. Others dishes are significant because they came from a particular ancestor's home country or region. Making certain recipes is often a tradition when celebrating special occasions.



Sharing family and cultural recipes is a delicious way to help us remember and learn more about our relatives and ancestors and connect to our individual ethnic origins!

When my mother, Jenny Helen, was 16 years old she spent a summer with her aunt Helen (who she was named after). While there, Aunt Helen taught her how to make gingersnaps, a delicious, spiced molasses cookie. My mother brought that recipe home with her and in the years since has made hundreds of batches of Aunt Helen's Gingersnaps. She has passed that recipe on to her children who in turn make the nostalgic cookies every year (usually more than once!)

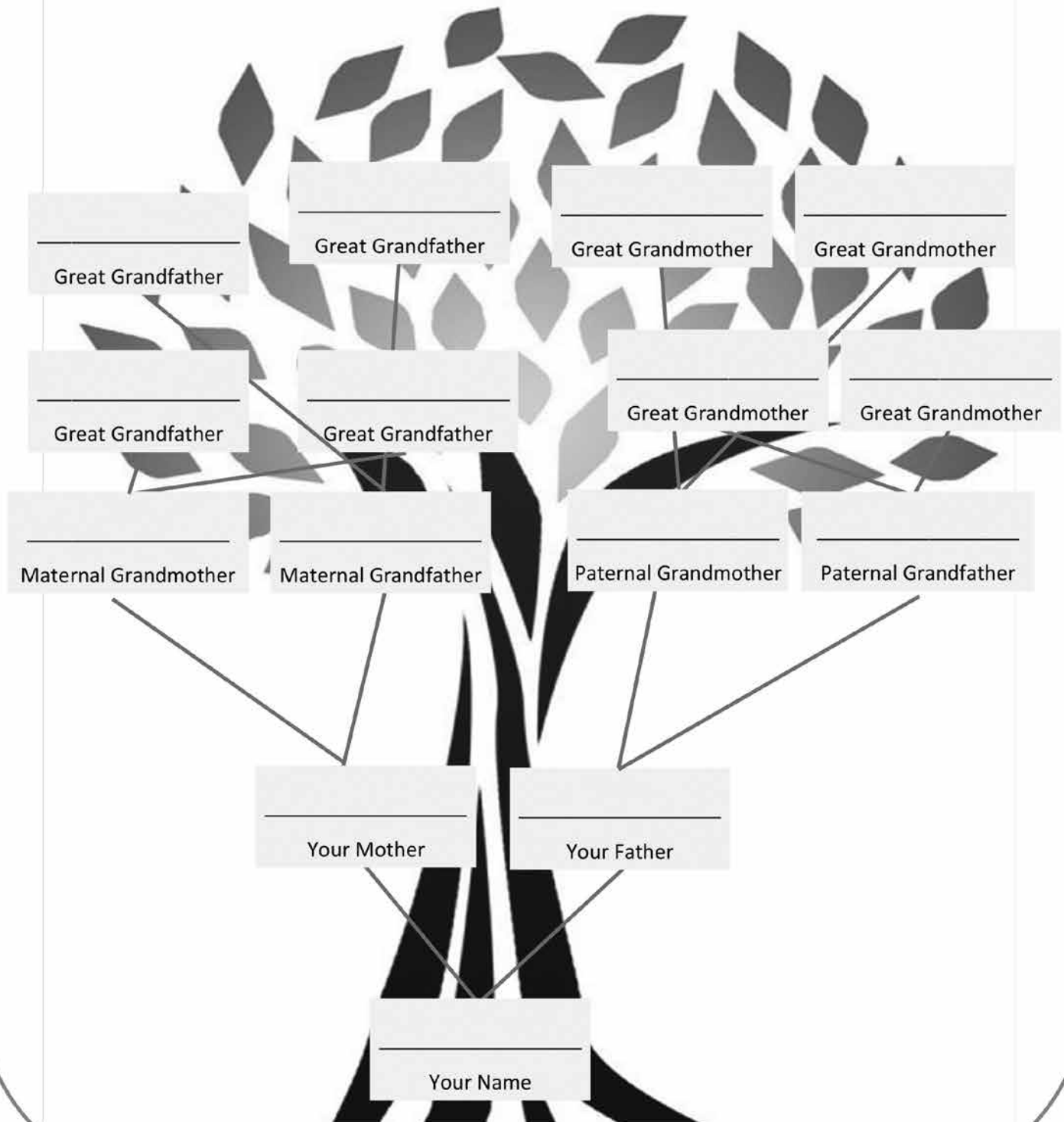


What recipes are special or traditional in your family? Are there particular dishes that your family makes every year or on certain occasions? Have you ever asked where these recipes came from or why they are special in your family? Are there specific dishes that are made only where your ancestors' came from? Ask an adult to help you reach back to those roots via the internet. Try recreating some of the recipes you find!

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# Create your own Family Tree!

Depicting your family tree in picture form can help you visualize how you are connected to your ancestors! Fill out the family tree below.



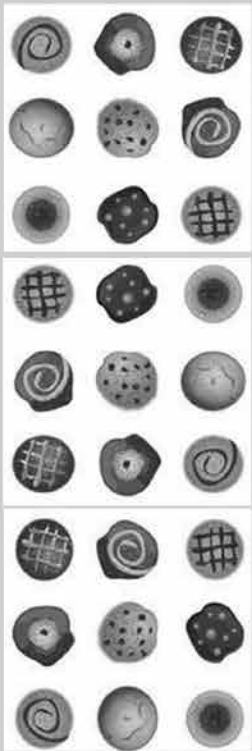
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## Family Tree Wall Art

Once you have completed the activity on the previous page you are ready to create your own Family Tree Wall Art! There are any number of creative ways to do this! **Draw, paint, or paste** a large tree on a **piece of butcher paper or a large piece of cardboard**. With the help of an adult, **print** out pictures of your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. Once your tree is dry, **paste the pictures** on the tree with arrows like the family tree chart you made in the last activity! Include their names under their picture. (If you do not have pictures of your relatives, **go ahead and draw them!**)



Lydia and Oliver from Boise, ID made this tree out of green painted packing paper and butcher paper! They are excited to add names and pictures and create their own family tree!



## Aunt Helen's Delicious Gingersnaps

### Ingredients

- ◇ 1 cup sugar
- ◇ 3/4 cup butter
- ◇ 1 egg
- ◇ 1/4 cup molasses
- ◇ 2 cups flour
- ◇ 2 tsp baking soda
- ◇ 1/2 tsp salt
- ◇ 1 1/4 tsp ginger
- ◇ 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- ◇ 1/2 tsp cloves

### Directions

Cream together sugar and butter. Add the egg, molasses, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves and mix well. Add flour and mix again.

Roll dough into balls. (Chill dough to easily form balls.)

Roll balls in sugar.

Bake at 350° for 7-10 minutes.

Note: In higher elevations, add 2 tablespoons of extra flour.



# Family Relative Interview

Interviewing your family members is a great way to get to know older generations and learn about how times were different when they were young! It also preserves valuable memories that otherwise your family might not know or remember! Practice your interviewing skills by asking a family member (e.g. parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) the following questions!

1. Family Members' Full Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did your parents' choose this name? Do/Did you have a nickname? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When and where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have any siblings? What are their names? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was your home like growing up? Did you have electricity? Did you live in the city or out in the country? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did you do for fun when you were little? (Favorite games? Sports? Toys? Books?) \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was/is your favorite type of music? Favorite song? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was school like when you were growing up? What was your favorite subject to learn about? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What were your hobbies growing up? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is your favorite food? What would you usually eat growing up? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What traditions did your family have for holidays and birthdays? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is your earliest memory? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is your favorite childhood memory? \_\_\_\_\_
15. When and where did you meet your spouse? What is your favorite memory from when you were dating? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What was your profession? How did you choose it? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What is one thing you most want people to remember about you? \_\_\_\_\_

# Genealogy at a Glance: Mississippi Genealogy Research

by Melissa Barker

Author: Michael A. Ports

Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company

Publication Year: 2018

Pages: 4 pages

ISBN: 978-0-8063-2084-7

Price: \$9.95

Available at:

<https://genealogical.com/store/genealogy-at-a-glance-mississippi-genealogy-research/>

*Genealogy at a Glance: Mississippi Genealogy Research* by Michael A. Ports is a quick reference guide for researchers who have Mississippi ancestors. Genealogists who are spending any amount of time in Mississippi records will find this reference guide published by the Genealogical Publishing Company useful. This 4-page, laminated guide is packed with information and should be kept with other Mississippi references books for quick access while conducting genealogy research.

The *Contents* section of this guide gives the reader a quick overview of the subjects covered. Subjects such as *Mississippi Settlement Background*, *Record Sources* such as *Vital Records*, *Probate Records*, *Land Records* and *Military Records*. The contents section goes on to list *Supplemental Sources* including *Colonial and Territorial*, *Census Records* and *Tax Records*.

One of the first sections the reader will see on the front page is the *Quick Facts*. This is a timeline of Mississippi events. This list is arranged by date starting in 1699 and taking us to 1870. One fact in this list is: "In 1812, the portion of Spanish West Florida between the Pearl and Perdido rivers was annexed to the Mississippi territory." These Quick Facts will help the researcher get an overview of important dates in the history of Mississippi.

It is important that genealogists know the settlement history of any area they are researching whether that is a city, county, state or even country. The State of Mississippi's settlement is filled with historical events that our ancestors were a part of or witnessed. I enjoyed reading about the state's rich history in the guide's *Settlement Background* section including that "The attraction of high-quality, fertile, and inexpensive land attracted hordes of settlers, mostly from Georgia, the Carolina, and Virginia." The author includes a *For Further Reference* after each section with great references for the genealogist to pursue.

In the *Records Sources* section of the guide, Michael A. Ports gives the reader an overview of some of the records available in Mississippi. One of the main challenges facing the genealogist is figuring out what records are available and where they are located. This guide does not provide a complete list but instead some of the "must haves." We are reminded by the author, "Many of the records genealogists seek are located at the county level." Dates for when records start, what time frames are available, and where to find the records is included in this section. The author shares website links

# On the Bookshelf

to digitized sources such as probate records. Under the *Military Record* section of the guide, it was nice to see a reference to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) card index to the Mississippi Cemetery and Bible Records, an ongoing project of the Mississippi Genealogical Society that identifies the last resting place of many veterans.

The *Supplemental Sources* section includes information about the *Colonial and Territorial* records, *Census Records* and *Tax Records*, all great record sets that any genealogist doing research in Mississippi need to know about. Record loss is discussed as it pertains to tax records. The author states “While the collection at MDAH is extensive, significant gaps exist due to the ravages of floods, fires, tornados, war and neglect.”

The author finishes out the guide by listing major repositories that include the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Evans Memorial Library, and a few other large repositories. And no guide would be complete without a listing of helpful websites. A couple of the websites I visited and found helpful were the Mississippi Genealogy & History Network and the Mississippi Historical Society.

I highly recommend *The Genealogy at a Glance Mississippi Genealogy Research* guide to any genealogist that is researching their Mississippi ancestors. Even if your ancestors only passed through the state of Mississippi, it is quite possible

## Genealogy at a glance

### Mississippi Genealogy Research

by Michael A. Ports

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#### QUICK FACTS

- In 1699 the French built Fort Maurepas, establishing the first white settlement, “Old Biloxi,” on the current site of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.
- In 1716 the French established Fort Rosalie, around which the city of Natchez gradually grew.
- In 1763, after the French and Indian War, the British assumed control of British West Florida, as well as the rest of modern Mississippi.
- After the Revolutionary War, in 1783, Spain took control of West Florida, the southern tier of modern Mississippi.
- In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was created, encompassing roughly the southern halves of modern Alabama and Mississippi above Spanish West Florida.
- By 1800 the population of the Mississippi Territory was approximately 7,600.
- In 1804, after South Carolina and Georgia had given up their claims [that their western boundaries extended to the Mississippi River], the two northern halves were annexed to the Mississippi Territory.
- In 1812 the portion of Spanish West Florida between the Pearl and Perdido rivers was annexed to the Mississippi Territory.
- In 1817 Mississippi was admitted as the twentieth state in the Union.
- By 1860 the population of Mississippi had increased dramatically to 791,305.
- On January 9, 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union and joined the Confederate States, contributing more than 80,000 men to the Confederate army.
- On February 23, 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

#### SETTLEMENT BACKGROUND

The French claimed the territory that eventually would become the state of Mississippi as part of New France, establishing their first settlements along the Gulf Coast. In 1699 the French built Fort Maurepas at “Old Biloxi,” the current site of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and in 1716 they established Fort Rosalie, around which the city of Natchez gradually grew. In 1763, after the French and Indian War, the British assumed control of British West Florida, as well as the rest of modern Mississippi. In 1774 Britain moved the border of the West Florida colony further north, providing new settlers access to the fertile Natchez and Tombigbee districts. By 1776 a sizable colony of English-speaking planters had settled there. After the Revolutionary War, in 1783, Spain took control of West Florida, while Georgia and South Carolina continued to claim that their western boundaries extended to the Mississippi River. In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was created, encompassing roughly the southern halves of modern Alabama and Mississippi above Spanish West Florida. In 1804, after South Carolina and Georgia had given up their claims, the two northern halves were

annexed to the Mississippi Territory. The portion of Spanish West Florida between the Pearl and Perdido rivers was then annexed to the Mississippi Territory in 1812. The state of Mississippi was admitted as the twentieth state in the Union in 1817.

The attraction of high-quality, fertile, and inexpensive land attracted hordes of settlers, mostly from Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia. From 1798 through 1820, the population of Mississippi rose dramatically, from less than 9,000 to more than 222,000, the majority of which were slaves. The influx of settlers came in two distinct waves. The first was a slow but steady migration until the onset of the Creek War in 1813–1814; the second wave came after the war, spurred by high cotton prices, the cessions of Native American lands, improved roads, and the acquisition of water access to the Gulf of Mexico. During the antebellum period, settlers continued to flood into Mississippi, and in 1860 its population had increased to 791,305, with slaves accounting for 436,631 of the total.

they left some sort of footprint in the records that can be found in the many archives, libraries, and museums in the state.



Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager for the Houston County, TN Archives. She also lectures, teaches and writes about researching in archives and records preservation.

She writes her own blog and has written articles for several publications. She is affectionately known as *The Archive Lady*. She is also a Professional Genealogist that works with clients researching their Tennessee ancestors.



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# A Walk in the Park

by Michelle Norris

Balboa Park in San Diego, California, is one of my favorite places. As a child, I spent many weekends there with my friend Angela. It would cost us a quarter to ride the bus to get there, and all the museums were free to those under twelve years of age. It is hard to imagine letting two girls get on a bus by themselves and spending the day at the park these days. I liken Balboa Park to the Smithsonian and Central Park all in one. I often say the park is in my blood. During its premiere as the host of the Panama-California Exposition in 1915, my then twelve-year-old grandmother had a job selling postcards for an artist. In the 1940s, my mother enjoyed the park with her friends, walking through the canyons and climbing the California Tower. She also worked at Camp Kidd, a thirty-three-acre area designated as a Naval Training Center for Corpsman and part of the San Diego Naval Hospital during World War II. When my kids were young, I would take them to the park for the free museum admission Tuesdays. I am still a member of one of the International Cottages even though I now live almost a thousand miles away.

Another member of my family shares a part in Balboa Park history, a great-uncle who took photographs of the park before it opened. I was lucky enough to inherit these photographs, but they

were lost for quite a few years. Luckily in our move, I found them. I wanted to share the pictures on social media with my friends, especially my family; Balboa Park is an icon of San Diego. I also wanted to give credit where credit was due, but I did not know which uncle took the pictures. The only clue I had was that he was my maternal grandfather's uncle. It was time to tap my memory and put on my genealogical thinking/detective cap.

I remember a cousin of my grandfather's whose name was Margaret. I remember as a teenager visiting Margaret and her husband George. I was intrigued by what looked to be professional pictures of Margaret as a child. I figured these clues would be a good place to start. I assumed Margaret's last name was Hawkins; that was my great-grandmother's maiden name, and I knew she had a few brothers. I looked at my Legacy Family Tree genealogy software program and found that there was not much on Margaret. I did not show a father, but I did show a mother, Emma Hawkins, my grandmother's sister. This also brought memories of my mom talking about an Aunt Emma. I had thought Margaret's maiden last name was "Wood" but I soon figured out that it was actually her married name. I next went to my tree on Ancestry.com to see what I had listed there. After searching

## San Diego California 1910 Census.

LOCATION.	NAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.	NATIVITY.			OCCUPATION.
				Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the state or territory. If of foreign birth, give the country.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1910 154 166	Leahy William H	Head	M 45 M 1 2 5	San Carolina	San Carolina	Virginia	English Agent Advertising
	Kathleen R	Wife	F 43 M 1 2 5	New York	Ireland	Ireland	English Nurse
	Harry St	Son	M 18 8	Illinois	South Carolina	South Carolina	English None
	Arthur R	Son	M 16 1 1	Indiana	Illinois	Indiana	English Salesman Cigar Store
	Thomas R	Son	M 14 1 1	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	English None
1910 167 169	Thompson George H	Head	M 45 M 1 2 1	Michigan	New York	New York	English Officer City Police
	Ellen	Wife	F 42 M 1 2 1	California	Michigan	California	English None
	Charles	Son	M 18 8	California	Michigan	California	English None
	Robert	Son	M 17 8	California	Michigan	California	English None
	Rollin	Son	M 16 8	California	Michigan	California	English None
1910 168 168	Conner Oscar R	Head	M 45 M 1 2 1	New York	New York	New York	English Merchant Grocery Store
	Evelyn P	Wife	F 42 M 1 2 1	New York	New York	New York	English None
1910 169 169	Bennett Richard E	Head	M 45 M 1 2 1	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	English Photographer
	Emma E	Wife	F 42 M 1 2 1	England	England	England	English None
	August P	Son	M 18 8	California	Illinois	Illinois	English None

The Bennette family are the last three listed. Richard, a photographer, working in a Photograph Gallery.



## Research



*Margaret Bennette*



*David Burns  
(my grandfather)*



*Eliza Hawkins (2nd great  
grandmother) and Margaret.*



*Eliza Helen Hanney Hawkins  
(nee Aiken)*

using what I knew, I found various records that led to Bennette as a maiden name. I found Margaret listed with her parents on the San Diego, California 1910 Census in no time. Her father, Robert, a photographer! Eureka!

I found something even more interesting, Margaret died in 1987 in McCall, Idaho, about two hours from where I live now. That reminded me that once her husband George died, she had moved in with one of her children. I assumed it was a daughter, who died in the 1950s, and she was living in the Midwest. There is a joke in Idaho about people calling us Iowans.

On Ancestry.com, someone had posted pictures of Margaret as a child. I sent a message to that person explaining who I was and I received a message back right away. It turns out Margaret's grandson, Mike,

had posted those pictures. Ironically, he lives about five miles away from me! My newfound cousin and I have yet to meet in person; surgeries and Covid 19 have stood in our way. My sisters and I are now friends with him on social media.

Mike posted a picture titled, "Margaret and her grandmother." I also happen to have a picture of that same grandmother. Ironically my picture is labeled, David's (my grandfather) grandmother.

To put things in perspective, Eliza Hawkins died in November 1914 in Long Beach, California. Margaret was born in 1902 and David in 1903. I was told my grandfather was about eleven years old when this picture was taken.

These two pictures of David and Eliza have hung on my walls for years. Every time I walked by, I



*Looking up Laurel Street facing east towards Park Avenue. The iconic fountain and the Rueben H Fleet Space and Science Center were not built until the 1970s.*



*Looking out from a walkway. On the right is the Botanical Gardens and in the distance is the California Tower.*

## Research

could not help but wonder who she was. Now I know Eliza Helen Hanney Hawkins (nee Aiken). This Aiken family has been quite the brick wall! Although, every few years a small crumb gets thrown my way to keep the search alive. Eliza's father and grandfather were Master Mariners out of London and captained their own ships. Sadly, both died at

sea so there are no graves to visit. Eliza was born in Cochin, India, her sister "on the bough of a ship, China sea." Usually, when a British subject was born overseas, the event was recorded in England, showing up the following year. That wasn't the case with Eliza. I even wrote to the General Registry Office in London with no luck. Luckily Eliza's



*This is looking down towards the Organ Pavilion. From the distance, it seems Richard must have been standing where the Art Museum stands now. Right before where the buildings begin is Laurel Street, which use to go straight through. Now, one can only turn to the right towards the Pavilion. When the park is open, you can still hear free live organ performances on the weekends.*



*When flying into San Diego's Lindbergh Field, the California Tower is one of the most familiar landmarks you'll see before touchdown. This is part of what was once known as the Museum of Man, now called the Museum of Us.*



*This is the once empty Botanical Gardens. The large fish pond, which is now in front of the Botanical building, was not there during the Exposition.*

## Research

brother was born in London and I have been in contact with his descendant John. John lives in Southern England and we had plans to visit in May 2021. Because of Covid 19 restrictions, our plans are postponed. I can't wait to meet up with John as he has a lot of Aiken family memorabilia, including our third great-grandfather's Cutlass, Flintlock, and family Bible!

I now realize the importance of an observant child; you never know if they will be your next family historian. I was the youngest on both sides of the family, and I did not have the opportunity to personally know many that came before me. I had a history professor once say, "History is like shining a flashlight into a dark room, you can shine the lights on bits and pieces but you will never get the whole picture." It is up to us to put the pieces together and in this case, tell their story. Thankfully I was able to take those memories and

a little genealogical detective work to solve two mysteries. I wish I could say it was easy, but in most cases, it is not. Then again, like in this case, if the research and persistence produce a bounty, even every couple of years, it is worth it!



*Michelle Norris grew up in San Diego, California. She is the youngest of seven children and the youngest grandchild on both sides of her family. By the time Michelle became interested in genealogy, her father and all of her grandparents had passed away. Like many, she wished she had written down and paid more attention to her grandmother's stories. As she began having her own children,*

*family history piqued her interest. Her love of genealogy encouraged her to go back to school and she received a BA in History and a MLIS with an emphasis in Archival Studies. Michelle lived in Temecula, California and was an active member of the Temecula Valley Genealogical Society. After twenty years, Michelle and her husband moved to Idaho where they currently reside.*

The Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) was formally organized September 25, 1971, by the State of Utah as a nonprofit educational organization. The Association's interests are worldwide: it is not affiliated with any religious or political organization.

Mission Statement: UGA provides genealogical information, sources and education through personal instruction and published media on state, national and international family history topics, while promoting high standards and ethical practices.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide education, instruction, and training that will raise the standards of genealogical and family history research through publications, classes, lectures, local workshops and seminars, and an annual statewide conference.
2. Publish instructional information of value to genealogists everywhere.

3. Provide information to the genealogical public relative to Family History Library collections.
4. Recognize the diverse genealogical interests in Utah and the Intermountain West by providing a worldwide focus when publishing or teaching information of interest to genealogists through vehicles such as Crossroads, other periodicals, and special monographs, as well as seminars, conferences, and institutions.
5. Locate, copy, index, publish, and otherwise make available to the public, genealogical records of Utah, including original records, compiled family genealogies, and similar records of the Intermountain West useful for Utah lineages.
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