

The Rotarian Genealogist

FEBRUARY, 2023 | THIRD QUARTER 2022-2023

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Notes from our President

Cheers to the new year! During the holidays, I hope you were able to spend time with friends and family. It is the perfect way to learn new stories and revisit the old stories about family history. It all seems so interesting and at times unbelievable. This introduces a thought we have all had at one time or another - writing a book. Why not share our experiences with everyone because surely they are unique. Well, our speaker this month will share with us just how to do this. Author Mary Jones will give us tips on how to do it using her current work as an example. Join me on Saturday, February 11th, at our FORG Family Reunion to learn about **History to Mystery: How to Use Genealogy to Write an Exciting Novel**.

One other very important announcement to share. FORG will not be hosting a booth in the House of Friendship in Melbourne at the RI Convention this May. We will also be skipping the convention in Singapore. We do plan to have a booth in 2025 in Calgary. We will be looking for volunteers as it gets closer in time.

See you via zoom on February 11th.

Kind regards,

Sue

FORG Calendar



01 February Newsletter Distributed

11 February FORG Family Reunion - *History to Mystery: How to Use Genealogy to Write an Exciting Novel*, with Speaker Mary Jones, Author

15 April Board Meeting

15 April Deadline for Newsletter Submission

1 May Newsletter Published

13 May Annual Business Meeting/Membership

27-31 May RI Convention in Melbourne, Australia

FORG Family Reunion Meeting



History to Mystery: How to Use Genealogy to Write an Exciting Novel

Saturday, February 11, 2023
1:30 pm Central USA Time

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)
Meeting ID: 842 4177 8048
Passcode: 657342

Mary Jones

You probably know the saying: 'Everyone has a book inside them.' Several years ago I decided to find out if I could locate and write mine. I knew at once that I would base it on genealogy, which had become an all-consuming interest in my life. At the time, facing such a task felt like the equivalent of climbing Everest, from somewhere below Base Camp. But, I wrote that book. I liked writing that book, even though it did take seven years. I found a publisher. I am now embarking on book number eight.

My name is Mary Jones, and my writing name is [M. K. Jones](#). I first dipped a toe into genealogy research over twenty years ago, somewhat begrudgingly, to help my mother trace an Irish ancestor, her grandfather, by explaining how Ancestry worked. I helped her record her findings, and have become a passionate genealogist, an addict, you might say.

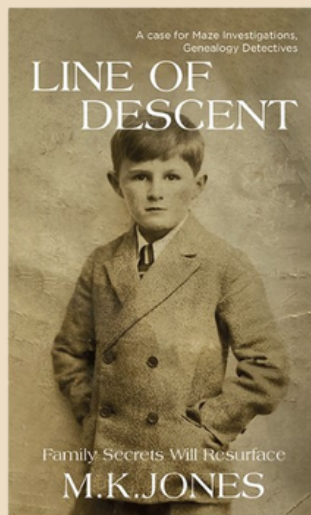
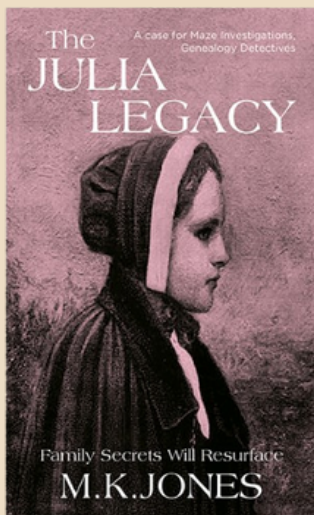
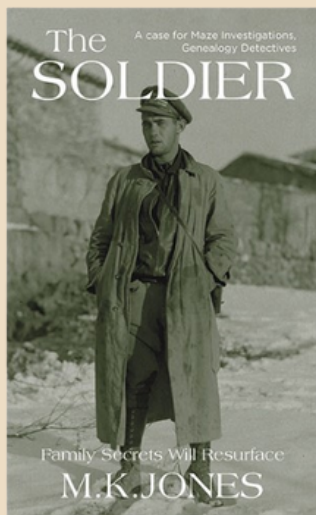
My first novel was published in 2015. It's called *Three Times Removed*.

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My DNA tells me I am 50% Irish, 39% Welsh, 7% English and North West European and 4% Scottish. I began my own research with my Welsh family, but with the surname Jones, and a father called John Jones, I soon became stuck. So, I turned my attention to my Irish family. Now, there's a story. I am still researching them twenty years later. Each year I learn more and come closer to discovering what is behind the brick wall – the one that started my mother's quest. No, I still haven't solved it. In the meantime, I have researched histories for other family members, friends, and people I meet and chat with about genealogy. I have traveled the length and breadth of Great Britain, visiting archives, historic sites, and libraries. I have traveled across Ireland and visited the sites of the Spanish Civil war in Catalonia.

Mainly, my novels concentrate on missing children. My industrious team of investigators – the Maze Investigations team – have each solved the mysteries in their own lives, and gone on to help others. I like to include important historical events. These have included the Spanish Civil War, child trafficking in Victorian England, and the rise and fall of the Chartist movement. For the next novel, I will be tackling aspects of the Great Famine in Ireland. At the end of January, I am going back to Ireland, to visit the National Library of Ireland to examine papers there, in the hope of finding out more about the fate of my ancestors during the Famine.

Technically, I am "retired", but I now spend more hours a week researching and writing than I ever did in my previous professions, and I love every minute of it. Final note: I have not yet been able to work out where the 7% English and North West Europe fits in, nor the 4% Scottish. I have hopes that one day I will work it out, but I suspect it may be well before records began.



Winner of Contest - Melissa Earnest

POP QUIZ

Besides names and pictures, what else do you add to your family genealogy records? Be the first to answer this question in the chatroom on our next family reunion on November 19th and win a prize! (BOD members not eligible).

Answer: Surnames



Member Blogs

[Lynn Breyfogle](#)

My name is Lynn Breyfogle and this blog is about my journey as a family historian. In particular, I'm beginning this in 2023 as I begin a year-long sabbatical. I have been exploring my family history (along with my husband's) for over 40 years with a very concerted effort in the last several years. This year I hope to make some very real progress on several of my "brick walls" in my family tree and continue to deepen my research skills by visiting archives, court houses, family history centers, and libraries. I hope that others will grow along with me and find my journey useful and maybe even inspiring.

[Judy Nimer Muhn](#)

Lineage Journeys helps you to find your way – to ancestor names and places, their faith tradition, where they lived and worked, and what their lives were like.

Precious Genealogy Moments

By Cathy Roth, Member



Attached please find photo – it is one of me holding a cup and saucer from the dinner set of my great-great grandparents Henry Bower Harman and his wife Carolyn Peerless and dates back to around 1870. It was given to me when I visited the UK and met my second cousin who had been entrusted with the last few pieces of it. Henry Bower Harman's father Thomas provided uniforms to the military in India and Burma, and Harman swords are still sought after as some of the best in the world. Henry was born aboard a ship on the Hoogly River in what was then Calcutta.

An interesting note is that the shop that Thomas had on Government Road was next door to the subsequent café that was the meeting place of the first Rotary club in Calcutta (and I believe India). Sadly, both buildings are now demolished.

Above is a photo of Henry and his wife Carolyn, with their son Henry James, and his son, Henry James Junior – taken in 1905, at the same time as our own organization taking its first tentative steps.

Looking forward to meeting others from this Fellowship in Melbourne next year.

Member Cathy Roth

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society



AAHGS

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

Our Mission

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) is a non-profit 501(c)3, which strives to preserve African-ancestored family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information throughout the community. Our primary goals are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories.

The following sets forth our goals and objectives for our [Online Curator Website](#).

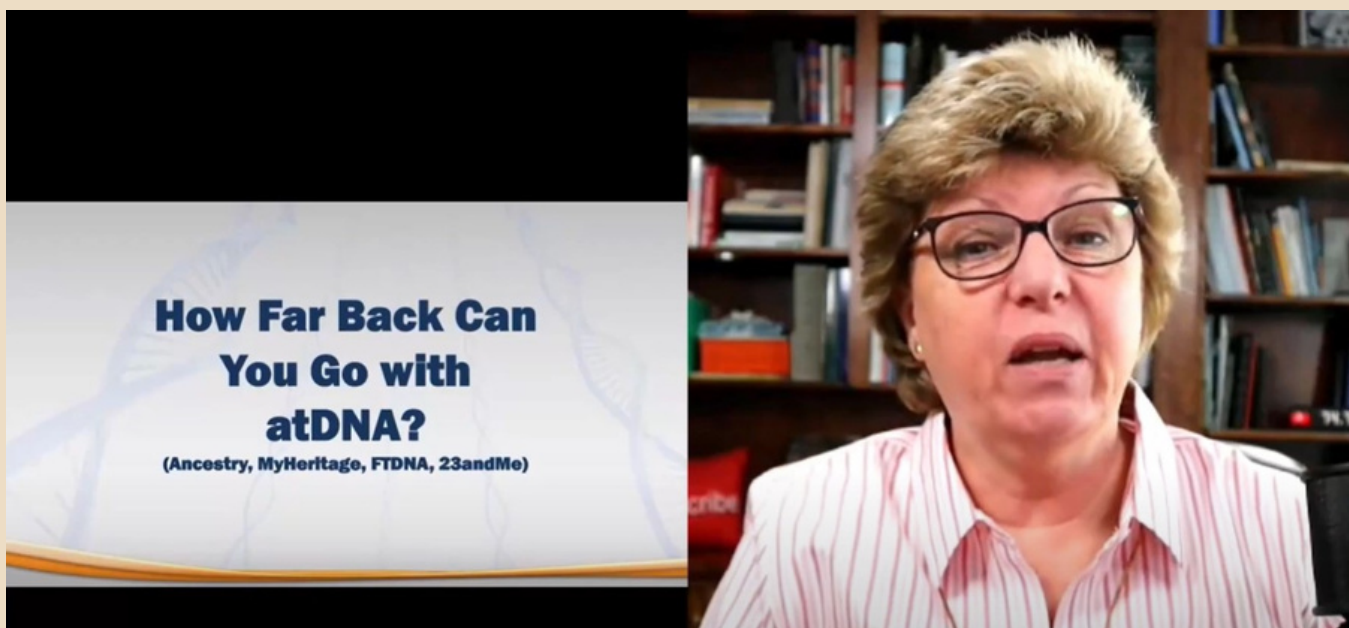
Goal:

AAHGS' website is designed to be the premier online tool for the research of African American history and genealogy.

Objectives:

- To provide the general public with factually based and scholarly researched information about the history and genealogy of Americans of African descent.
- To provide chapter members with the necessary tools to advance the learning and knowledge of African American history in the communities in which they live.
- To provide our nation's educators with the tools to advance the teaching and learning of African American history.
- To provide a coherent strategy for the preservation of African American history and historic sites.
- To provide a repository for the collection of valued historic artifacts that promote the history and genealogy of African American families.
- To provide a virtual tool mapping African American history and genealogy, from 1619 to the present day.
- To provide a vehicle to integrate our digital resources with social media.

Genealogy TV - Connie Knox



Member Connie Knox's [Genealogy TV](#) YouTube channel is a wonderful resource for genealogy training content. Click on the above image to go to her video "How Far Back Can You Go with atDNA?" in which she shares the basics of DNA and how far you can go to verify relatives in previous generations.

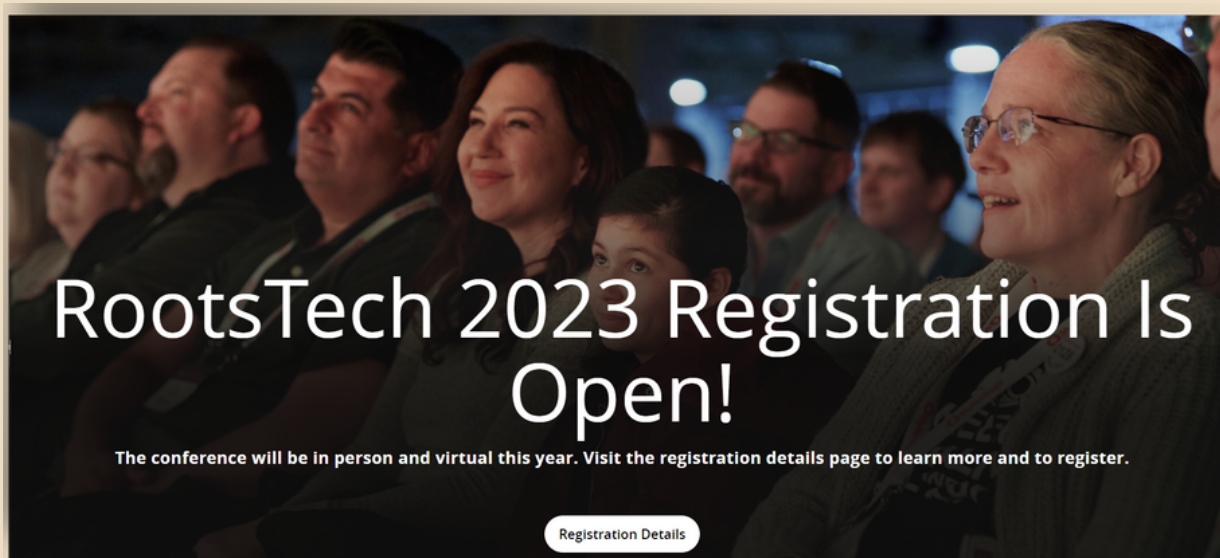
(used with permission from Connie Knox)

Conferences, Classes, Webinars

[Conference Keeper](#) is an amazing site to find genealogical conferences, webinars, etc. It lists itself as "the most complete collection of Genealogy events online!" Sign up for their newsletter, and you will always have up-to-date information on both in-person and virtual conferences free and for a cost. Online Courses from other popular genealogical sites are:

[Family Search](#)
[Family Tree Magazine](#)
[Genealogy Guys](#)
[Legacy](#)
[My Heritage](#)
[National Institute for Genealogical Studies](#)

RootsTech - In Person and Virtual March 2-4, 2023



Click on Image to sign up.

RootsTech 2023 registration is now open! The mega event for genealogists will be held Thursday through Saturday, March 2-4 in BOTH Salt Lake City and your home. That's right: the live conference returns this year for \$98, and the online virtual experience is again FREE.

[Find all the details here.](#)



Click on Image to watch Connie's take on RootsTech.



FamilySearch has officially announced new names for its flagship Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and all 5,000 local and regional family history centers worldwide. The library will now be known as the FamilySearch Library and local and regional family history centers will now be FamilySearch Centers. The name changes will better align local centers with FamilySearch's expanding global brand. This renaming does not include its 1,800 affiliates

Wisconsin Genealogical Society

"2023 Spring Gene-a-Rama"

March 24-25



"Trials and Tribulations of Coming to America featuring Katherine Willson, Ph.D."

Hosted by the [Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire](#)

Katherine R. Willson, a 7th generation Michigander, is an engaging & dynamic genealogy lecturer at local, regional, and national conferences; an educator teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogy classes in Michigan since 2001; the author of *The Genealogist's Guide to Grand Rapids, Michigan* (published in 2018 by The In-Depth Genealogist), and a professional researcher for private clients. Her genealogy interests began at age 10 while earning the Junior Girl Scout My Heritage badge.

You can find her website at <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/>

Also Featuring Renee Garrick, Russ Horton, John Berg, and Sarah J. Beer.

[Register Here.](#)

Guild of One Name Studies

"Spires and Squires"

April 21 - 23



With more stately homes than any other county, Northamptonshire has often been called the county of "spires and squires" due to its wide variety of historic buildings and country houses. Although still largely rural, parts became industrialized in the 18th and 19th centuries and the Northampton area gained a sizeable shoemaking and leatherwork industry; by the end of the 19th century it was almost definitely the boot and shoe-making capital of the world. These themes form the basis of the 2023 Guild conference from April 21 to 23 at the Northampton Hilton.

The full program is on the [Guild website where you will find links to online booking](#), or you can download a hardcopy booking form.

The final closing date for all bookings is March 12, 2023. On all prices, a Guild member attending their first conference can claim an additional 10% discount.

The Guild conference is a great opportunity to network with other Guild members and catch up with old friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

National Genealogical Society "Deep Roots of a Nation" May 31 - June 3



[The National Genealogical Society](#) 2023 Family History Conference gives genealogists and family historians of all levels the insights necessary to take their research and writing to new heights and make exciting new discoveries.

Join us at the Greater Richmond Convention Center or Online at Home!

Learn the latest from the best speakers in the genealogy community. Discover what genealogy companies are bringing to market. Gain insights from genealogy societies and organizations throughout the United States. Attend your choice of more than 110 lectures and special luncheons. Have fun at the SLAM! Idea Showcase reception and Expo Hall opening. Celebrate Virginia's deep roots with a special Friday evening event sponsored by the Virginia Genealogical Society.



Other Virtual or Hybrid Conferences

February 10-17 [Genealogica 2023](#) - A virtual festival about family history research

February 11 [Records & Background on Researching Your Irish and Scots-Irish](#) - Winter 2023 GSP Virtual Conference

February 18 [The Family History Show](#) - Online

February 24-25 [New Jersey Family History Institute](#) 2023 Virtual Conference - Online via Zoom

March 4 [West Florida Genealogical Society](#) 2023 Spring Conference (Hybrid Event)

March 11-12 [Institute for Genetic Genealogy](#) (i4GG) Conference (Hybrid Event) San Diego, California

March 24 [North Carolina Genealogical Society](#) 2023 Virtual Conference

March 24-25 [North Hills Genealogists](#) Spring 2023 Genealogy Conference & Workshop with Kimberly Powell (Hybrid Event)

March 31-April 2 [Southern California Genealogical Society](#) Genetic Genealogy: Uncovering Your Genetic Inheritance (Hybrid Event)

April 1 [Indiana Genealogical Society](#) Annual Meeting & Conference featuring Amy Johnson Crow (Hybrid Event)

April 1 [Greater Omaha Genealogical Society](#) Researching Your German Ancestors featuring Teresa McMillin Virtual

Evalogue.Life



Member In Need

I am planning a trip to St. Agnes, Cornwall, UK and Biesiekierz, Poland in September, 2023, to do some genealogy research. I am wondering if you have anyone in the Genealogy group from those areas or nearby who might be interested in helping me out in the run-up to my trip. I'm not sure if that is the kind of thing that can be asked of this group, but please let me know what local people might be willing to help out with in terms of actual research, local lore, just meeting and talking, etc. Any guidance or assistance on protocols or what's appropriate would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!
Elinor Jackson

What is a Grass Widow?



What is a grass widow? You may come across this unique term in your genealogy research. It is an old one, and has different meanings in Europe and America. It was used in old newspaper records, as well as in official government records. Here is what you need to know about grass widows. Click on image above to play the podcast. (From [Ancestral Findings](#)) *(If the link on the image doesn't work, [try this link.](#))*

How to Archive Social Media Posts

Rachel Christian, Family Tree Magazine

Archive the photos, memories, and genealogical details you and others have shared on social media. Plus, learn what privacy and copyright issues you should be aware of. *(Although I am not technically challenged, I found new ways to archive my family's social media posts - Editor)*

[Click here for complete article.](#)

Photos Genealogists Should be Taking Now

A review of "5 Photos Genealogists Should be Taking Now" dated May 13, 2022, article written by Marian Pierre-Louis, Legacy Family Tree. She advised that she reviewed a webinar by Gena Philibert-Ortega, who advised that genealogists should be photographing various things so that our descendants can see how we lived. Her suggestions for pictures to take are:



1. The kitchen - The kitchen is the heart of most homes. Take photos of relatives cooking and the food they make and the friends who gather around the table. Include heirloom china or a favorite pot or bowl.
2. Your Pets - make sure you not only take photos of your pets but also of family members interacting with your pets.
3. Multigenerational Photos - when you gather with family, take a photo of the youngest family member with the oldest family member so the younger member can remember the older relative who may not be around when they get older. Get a group picture of every generation in your family.
4. Gravestone Photos with People in the Photo - Gravestone photos are more meaningful when people we love are in them.
5. Photos of your Passions - Take photos of family members doing what they love.

Other suggestions listed in the Comments section were:

1. Your Home - Take photos of every home you live in and of those your family has lived in.
2. Your Family Car - Take a photo of the family car with the license plate showing.
3. Your Workplace, School, Church - any place of significance.
4. Trips and vacations
5. First date of school.

To read the entire article, [please click here.](#)

Editor Jenny Kendrick

Handwriting Translation Error Erases Founding Man's Name from Street Sign

By Lynn Cassity, Internet Genealogy author

A town's street sign names were taken from an 1882 plat, but a mistake was made in translation. Whoever read the plat misinterpreted an old way of writing e as an s. As a result, an honored pioneer of the town was dishonored when the street given his first name changed from Bogue to Bogus Street. Due to someone not understanding old handwriting. To avoid such errors, genealogists have the reference *Reading Early American Handwriting* by Kip Sperry. Websites include *Tips for Reading Old Handwriting* (ancestry.com). Using these sources can prevent your genealogy work from being bogus.



Tips for Beginning Genealogists

Every family tree is as original and unique as you are.

- Not every online hint connects to your family tree.
- Nicknames: List full names in your ancestral chart, not nicknames.
- Start with what you know and work back by generations.
- Join Facebook groups that connect with your geographical research area.
- Record all of the details of a record you find (Hints).
- Stay organized! Organize as you go so you don't end up with piles of paper.
- Maiden Name: List women by their maiden name in ancestral chart.
- Use the Day Month Year format for dates: 26 Jan 2022.
- Smiths EVERYWHERE! Not everyone sharing your last name is related to you.
- A research and correspondence log will save you time.
- Start with just birth, marriage, and death.
- Spell the name you seek many ways.
- Cite your resources (book? author? page? site, collection, record?).
- Use your ancestral chart and family group sheets to keep people and time in perspective.
- Don't steal original documents from a paper collection.
- Include all of the siblings of a couple on a tree (Clues).
- View and use original records when possible, not transcriptions.
- "There is no truth without proof."
- Look for naming patterns.
- Join a local genealogy group for camaraderie and education.

Organize. Digitize. Preserve. Learn. Visit www.archiveyourpast.com