

**Dave Robison**

**Old Bones Genealogy of New England**

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**Abbreviated Outlines of Classes, Lectures and Workshops**

**Classes**

**The ABC's of Genealogy – Getting Started with Family Research (3 to 4 sessions)**

- What are the basics
- What do I need to get started
- Keeping track of where you've been as you go along – not later!
- Citing your source
- Friendly techniques for interviewing family
- Recording it all
- Pinball genealogy – A dangerous preoccupation

**Pulling the Person out of the Paperwork (3 to 4 sessions)**

- Making sense of what you've found
- Checking and rechecking – What did I miss
- Time lines
- Transcription vs abstraction vs extraction
- Triangulation
- DNA – Who, what, where, why and when

**On Line Search Strategies (1 - 2 sessions)**

- The "Rules of the Internet Road"
- How many websites could there possibly be?
- The value of subscription sites
- Google your Genealogy
- Social Media and why you need it for family research

**Off Line Search Strategies (1 – 2 sessions)**

- It's not all on the internet
- Libraries
- Archives and repositories
- Private collections – especially your own!

### **Intermediate Research Elements (4 -5 sessions)**

- The Genealogical Proof Standard
- Rehashing old research – What did you miss
- New finds that solve old problems
- Paleography
- The “FAN” principle
- Immigration and Naturalization
- History and its effect of migration patterns – Where did they go and why

### **Advanced Research Techniques (4-5 sessions)**

- “Unconventional” research strategies
- Proving a genealogical argument
- Writing a Kinship Report
- Forensic genealogy principles

## **Lectures**

### **Mining the Rich Resources of Western Massachusetts (single session)**

- Some of the best kept research secrets right here in Western Mass

### **The City That William Pynchon Built – The Agawam Plantation**

- A walk through the founding and development of a major hub of education, industry and technology with the people who got it all started

### **The Dangers of On-Line Family Trees (Single session)**

- Tread lightly
- Trust (a little) but verify
- Avoid the temptation to believe
- Strategies to allow the use of potentially bad or even dangerous information

### **Genealogical Proof Standard**

- Reasonably exhaustive search
- Complete and accurate source citations
- Skilled analysis and correlation of data
- Resolution of conflicting information
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

### **Creative/Effective On-Line Search Techniques – 1.3 Billion Smith's – YES!**

- Always fish in a big pond
- Never tighten search filters with data that is probably inaccurate
- William T or W Thomas or W T or T William or....

### **DNA Basics – Which Test and Why**

- Why are you testing?
- What are your expectations?
- It's a compass not a map
- Who to test with
- Test results? Now what?
- DNA Group Projects

### **The "FAN" Principle**

- Family
- Associates
- Neighbors
- Why bother?

### **Immigration and Naturalization**

- Constantly changing laws
- Born in the USA to US Parents and NOT a citizen!
- 1906
- Ship's Lists
- There's More than Ellis Island?

## **Workshops**

### **Non-Confrontational Interview Strategies – Getting the Family Story**

- Preparing for and setting up a successful, productive family history interview

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