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

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?