

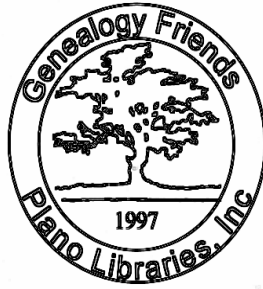


Speaker: Cheri Hudson Passey

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Presented By

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries



September 16, 2023

We would like to thank all of you for attending our fall seminar.

It is with pleasure that we present this seminar today led by our special speaker Cheri Hudson Passey.

- Barbara Coakley, President & Newsletter Editor
- Craig Burden, Treasurer
- Diana Gartner, Secretary
- Joy Gough, Communications & Publicity
- Donald Hinson, Audio Visual & Technology
- Susan Argyle, Website & Technology
- Charlie Livingston, Website & Technology
- Ann Allen, Hospitality
- Belle Waggoner, Hospitality
- Sharon Wolf
- Don Stevenson
- Barbara Brogdon, Dining Events & Newsletter Contributor

Schedule & Topics

9:30	Registration
10:00	5 Elements for Sound Research: Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard
11:00	Break
11:15	They Lived Where: How to Tackle a New to You Research Location
12:15	Lunch
12:45	What Does That Say? Strategies for Reading Old Handwriting
1:45	Break
2:00	Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse
3:00	Adjourn

Cheri Hudson Passey

Cheri Hudson Passey is a professional genealogist, instructor, writer, speaker, and the owner of Carolina Girl Genealogy, LLC. She is the host of the YouTube genealogy chat show GenFriends and is a genealogical researcher, subcontracted by Eagle Investigative Services, Inc., for the US Army Past Conflict Repatriations Branch. She is involved in many genealogy societies and organizations and currently serves as National Genealogical Society Vice President of Society & Organization Management.



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DNA GUIDE





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5 Elements for Sound Research: A Guide to Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard Cheri Hudson Passey

What is the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)?
A standard for the process of building a family tree, created by
the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

Breaking Down the Elements:

1- Exhaustive Research- How Do I know if I am Doing it?

- Start with a Research Question
-Focused on and individual or event
- Create a Research Plan
-What records may answer my research question?
- Do the Research-Acting on Your Plan
-Keep track of what you are finding and not finding

2-Source Citations--Complete and Accurate

- Elements of a Citation
-who, what, where and where in?
- Why Sources?
-shows depth of research
-allows for retracing steps
-critical for analysis of records

3-Analysis and Correlation-Figuring Out What Your Records are Saying

- Determining Reliability
-Why and How Were They Created
-original or derivative
-Who is the information?
- Extracting Information -What Do You Have?
-primary-data recorded at the time of an event
-secondary-data recorded after the time of an event
-direct evidence answers a genealogy question (may be wrong)

- indirect evidence- several pieces of information point to an answer
- negative evidence- an absence of an answer where you thought one would be.

- Correlate Records as You Find Them-
 - are they telling the same story?
 - Can you trust it?
 - is Information from the same or different informant?

4-Conflict Resolution-What if Records are Saying Different Things?

- Resolving a Conflict
 - is there a reasonable explanation for the conflict?
 - what is the quality of your Information?
 - look for more records
- What If You Can't?
 - records to resolve may not be available
 - explain what you have done, and why at this point, the conflict has not been resolved at this time.

For research to move forward a conflict needs to be resolved if possible.

5-Writing it all Down-Explaining Your Findings to Yourself and Others

- Write As You Go
 - Include records found or not found
- Cite Sources
 - craft and add citations as you find records
- Transcribe and Extract Information
 - graphs, charts, and timelines are helpful for correlation
- Add Your Analysis of All Documents
 - type of record, condition, type of source, information and evidence included.
 - Address Any Conflicts.
- Three Types of Written Narratives
 - proof statement-simple straight forward answer to your question using direct evidence
 - proof summary-provides and explanation of the answer after putting together indirect evidence
 - proof argument -an explanation of the resolution of conflicting evidence.

The GPS is a Process, Not Steps.
All Five Elements Work Together to Create Quality Research



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Resources:

The Genealogical Proof Standard

[Board for Certification of Genealogists-Ethics and Standards](#)

[National Genealogical Society-Understanding the GPS](#)

[Cyndi's List-The Genealogical Proof Standard](#)

[FamilySearch-3 Ways to Ensure Your Research Meets the Genealogical Proof Standard](#)

Exhaustive Research

[BCG: 10 Minute Methodology: What is Reasonably Exhaustive Research?](#)

[Quick Tips: The Blog -Evidence Explained-Reasonably Exhaustive Research](#)

[Methodology Monday-Reasonably Exhaustive Research](#)

Citing Sources

[Cite Your Sources-FamilySearch Wiki](#)

[Citations: A Guide to Proper Source Citations St. Louis Genealogical Society](#)

[Cyndi's List: Source Citations](#)

[Methodology Monday-Source Citations](#)

Analyzing and Correlation

[Evaluate the Evidence-FamilySearch](#)

[Evidence Analysis Explained \(Three Part Series -LegacyTree Genealogists](#)

[Methodology Monday-Analysis and Correlation](#)

Conflict Resolution

[Contradictions and Discrepancies-FamilySearch](#)

[Methodology Monday-Resolving Conflicts](#)

Writing Conclusions

[10 Minute Methodology -Proof Statements: 1](#)

[10 Minute Methodology-Proof Statements 2, Examples](#)

[Proof Arguments and Case Studies](#)

[Methodology Monday-The How and Why of Writing a Sound Conclusion](#)

Books:

Jones, Thomas W. Mastering Genealogical Proof. National Genealogical Society, 2013.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017.



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What Does That Say? Strategies for Reading Old Handwriting

Reading old handwriting can often be a challenge. If we can't understand what a record says, how can we glean facts, clues, and other information to help us build our family trees? Learn some of the best strategies to decipher old handwriting so you don't miss or misunderstand a thing!

- Common Problems
 - letter formation varying over the years or by scribe
 - styles of handwriting change over time or by scribe
 - no standards of spelling, even within a single document
 - words not used today
 - abbreviations: standard or made up
 - titles: different meanings during different times
 - unfamiliar symbols
 - faded images
 - bad handwriting
 - bad copy or digitation issue
- Helpful Strategies
 - If an original, make a digital copy
 - study historical writing styles
 - create a letter chart
 - look at other samples from the same scribe
 - reading out loud may help with understanding
 - read and transcribe what you can, then other words may make sense.
 - use a yellow or other pastel piece of paper or background to help with faded text.
 - tracing the letters may help your brain recognize the word or phrase.
 - use a photo editor and play with the tools to see if you can create a clearer image.

Tips:

Become familiar with the writing style of the period you are researching.

Get other's opinions. Try Facebook Genealogy Groups.

Put the document away for a while and then come back to it!

Resources:

[BYU Script Tutorial-Making Sense of Old Handwriting](#)

[Genealogy 101: I Can't Read That! Deciphering Old Handwriting](#)-GenealogyBank
Blog: Genea Philibert-Ortega

[Help Reading Faded Handwriting](#)-Sassy Jane Genealogy Blog

[How to Get Help Reading Old Handwriting](#)-FamilySearch Blog

[How to Read an Old Document](#)-The Family History Guide Blog

[The Biggest Mistake in Reading Old Handwriting and How to Avoid It](#)-Amy Johnson Crow

[Reading Secretary Hand](#)-Yale University

[Reading Early American Handwriting](#)-Skip Perry

[Tips for Reading Historical Documents](#)-National Archives

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They Lived Where? How to Tackle a New to You Research Location

Strategies and Best Practices for Tackling a New Research Location.

Resources for Learning About Localities

- FamilySearch Wiki
- Cyndi's List
- Linkpendium
- Google
- Locality Guides
- Local Resources

Historical Context

- History
- Culture
- Local Events
- World Events
- Religion
- Laws
- Occupations
- Groups or Organizations

Dig Deeper

- Books
- Academic Journals
- Oral Histories
- Museums
- Newspapers
- Manuscript Collections
- Maps

Connect with Experts

- Libraries
- Archives
- Historical & Genealogy Societies
- Historic Sites & Living Museums
- Facebook Groups

Create a Location Guide

- Quick Facts
- History
- Maps
- Border Changes
- Migration Routes
- Repositories
- Libraries and Archives
- Record Collections and Losses
- Reference Books

An ongoing project. Update as you find new resources.

Best Practices to Help You Succeed

- Use Online and Offline Sources
- Learn where records are held in the area
- Read published and unpublished histories about the area and its people
- Speak to local historians
- Read newspapers from cover to cover to learn what was happening in the community
- Study all types of maps to learn about the neighborhood, travel options, land formations or city streets.
- Plan a visit. Walk where they walked.

My number one tip?

- Create a Locality Guide as you research and learn about the location.

Resources:

[FamilySearch Wiki](#)

[Cyndi's List](#)

[Linkpendium](#)

[Google Books](#)

[Family Search Digital Library](#)

[WorldCat](#)

[JSTOR](#)

[Hathi Trust](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

Newspapers:

[British Newspaper Archives](#)

[MyHeritage.com](#)

[Findmypast.com](#)

[Google News](#)

[The Ancestor Hunt](#)

Maps:

[Dave Ramsey Map Collection](#)

[Library of Congress Map Collection](#)

[Old Maps Online](#)

Locality Guides:

[Creating a Locality Guide: The Basics-Cari Taplin](#)

[Location, Location, Location: How to Create a Locality Guide-Debra Ellen Blodgett](#)

[Introduction to ProGen and a Locality Guide-Mary Kircher Roddy](#)

[Research Like a Pro-How to Make a Locality Guide](#)



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Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse Cheri Hudson Passey

Why Look for Cousins? They May Have:

Documents

Photos

Stories

DNA

Naming Names- Where to Find Names of Living People:

- Newspapers
Look for obituaries, wedding and engagement announcements, community news
- Family Websites
May contain information on descendants. Sometimes living people are included.
- Family Photos
Online or actual photos. May contain names and relationships
- Online People Finders
Not just for the people you are looking for, check those listed as related.
- Documents
Comb over documents you already have. Look for clues to family ties.
- Social Media
What are people posting? Photos, other people's comments. Who is on their friends list?

Tools for Finding Living Family:

- Family Trees
Photos may include names of living
Look for people marked living-How many? Daughter or son?
Family stories may include names of living people.
- Family Web Sites
May not have living people's info private. Look for contact information for website owner.
- Genealogy Databases
 - U.S. City Directories
 - U.S. Phone and Address Directories
 - U.S. Public Records Index
 - U.S. Yearbooks

Voter Lists

Who and where were voters living? Look for similar names for connections.

Where were people living when these records were created?

Yearbooks are great for approximate ages and looking for possible siblings.

- Internet Search For:
 - Obituaries
 - Names
 - Addresses
 - Phone Numbers
 - Family Websites
- Photo Reverse Search

Google will allow for an image to be uploaded and searched for similar photos.
Who else may own that family photo?
- Online People Finders:
 - BeenVerified.com
 - FamilyTreeNow.com
 - TruePeopleSearch.com
 - Spokeo.com
 - Whitepages.com
- Public Record Sites
 - State Board of Health
 - County Clerks
 - Public Employees
 - Professional Licenses
 - Government Officials
- Social Media

Look through profiles for names, family members, comments
Locations may be given, or you may be able to reason it out.
Search Username-many people use the same username for all their social media.
Helpful for finding other platforms used and when their identity is unknown.
- Location Helps-Going Offline
 - Libraries
 - Archives
 - Historical Societies
 - Genealogy Societies

Methodology-Steps for Finding Living People

- Create as Complete and Accurate Tree as Possible
- Look for Clues of Living Descendants in Obituaries and Other Records-Stay Organized
- Search for Contact Information
- Make Contact

Best Practices for Contacting Living Relatives:

- Be Courteous-No one owes you any information
- Introduce yourself and your purpose
- Explain how being willing to share will help them
- Ensure them; you understand the ethics of using information about living people
- Provide a small tree to help them see the connection
- Be kind even if you get a negative response

Summing It Up:

- Create a tree to lead you to descendants of the last known living person
- Use tools both online and off to look for the names of those descendants
- Search for contact information on databases, social media and people finder sites
- Contact living people and connect with cousins!

Resources:

Newspapers.com

NewspaperArchive.com

GenealogyBank.com

Google News Archive

The Ancestor Hunt

Directory at Chronicling America

Been Verified

FamilyTreeNow

TruePeopleSearch

Spokeo

Whitepages.com



**Discover
amazing family
stories in
historical records**



**Embark on the
ultimate adventure**

Discover your family history



