

## SGS 2018 Conference - Session Descriptions

### PLENARY SESSIONS

#### **Plenary 1: Brick Walls, Breakthroughs and Bridges**

Marianne and Jim Greer will focus on issues and circumstances that raised “brick walls” impeding their search for their Irish family; “breakthroughs” in the form of discoveries and “aha” moments; and information and data, which have helped to “bridge” the gaps between family legend and archival data.

#### **Plenary 2: How do I Prove It?: The Proof of Robert Barber**

Gordon McBean inherited this search from his mother and dealt with it for most of his fifty years of doing genealogy research. In 2014, searches in Ontario and the eastern Townships of Quebec finally led to the breakthrough. This presentation will describe how he proved ancestry using the Genealogical Proof Standard.

#### **Plenary 3: Right Forest, Wrong Tree: Interpret Your Findings**

What does it mean? How do you know that? Where do you look for more evidence? It is not enough for the family historian to accumulate and organize information. As Brenda Smith will outline, analysis and interpretation of documentation are the tools that move research forward.

#### **Banquet Presentation: The Holy Ghost in Poland**

Not your usual travelogue but a travelogue none the less. For Earl Schultz, it took an invitation from friends and a distant cousin to initiate a visit to his ancestral homeland in Poland. However, someone, or something, was determined to make the experience an unbelievable emotional roller-coaster ride. That someone came to be called the "Holy Ghost" by his travel companions. Join us as Earl shares stories - humorous, sad and emotional - and information about travelling in rural Poland, finding cemeteries and records, visiting archives and the reward of finding ancestral roots.

#### **Plenary 4: Why Write Your Family History?**

It is never too soon to start writing your family story, but it can be too late. Learn to prepare for the opportunity to ask well-researched questions of your elderly relative. Consider how to be ready when you have the opportunity to travel. Explore why you should give yourself the gift of time to reflect on your research experience. (Brenda Smith)

### SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

#### **A1: Meeting 'A. Friend' at the Archives: Genealogical Resources at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**

The presentation will provide an overview of materials held by the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan that can be useful for family history research. Some researchers simply search the homestead file database on our website and assume that these are the only records at the Provincial Archives that will be helpful for their family history research. This presentation is designed to get beyond the homestead database and show genealogists the variety of materials in the collection of the Provincial Archives that may be of use for their research. (Bonnie Dahl)

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### **A2: Using the Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia to Locate your Ukrainian Village of Origin**

A gazetteer can provide a good deal of insight into your “place of origin”, but many of the best gazetteers are written in languages other than English. [The Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia](#) by Brian Lenius transcends this and provides an excellent resource to find villages of origin for your Ukrainian or German relatives who came from that area of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. In this presentation, John Althouse will demonstrate how you may use it to find the places that once were your family homes.

### **A3: DNA and Genealogy, An Introduction**

Thinking or wondering about doing a DNA test to help your genealogical research? Not sure where to test or what test to get? Earl Schultz will provide a basic introduction to DNA testing and some of the tools that are available to analyze the results and find your closest cousins. If you haven't tested yet, then this session will help you decide. If you have already tested and nothing has happened or you are wondering what to do next, then it will help you start to discover the benefits of your test.

### **A4: Casting the Net: Seeking Your Ancestors on the Internet**

So many web sites—so little time. For the family historian, the Internet is a sea of possibilities. Learn how to make the best choices, and achieve the best results, by setting your nets in the best pools. Brenda Smith will emphasize the free aspects of the Web, and discuss effective search techniques.

### **B1: Online Trees**

What do you want to achieve with an online family tree? Are you trying to find new ‘cousins’ or family lines? Or do you want to see your work published so family can access it? In this presentation, Gordon McBean will answer some questions about on-line trees and show you how to set one up.

### **B2: Google It!**

Genealogists often overlook the power of a wonderful research resource: GOOGLE. There is a good deal of information on GOOGLE that may be essential to your personal genealogy research. In this presentation, John Althouse will show some search techniques that may enlarge the resources that GOOGLE can bring to you. He will also provide examples of information, resources, and materials that both conventional searches and some out-of-the-box methods have provided him when he has employed GOOGLE.

### **B3: Finding Lost Cousins: How I Rediscovered my German Roots**

Mervin Weiss' German grandparents came to Canada in 1913 from Russia. Each left several siblings behind in Russia who never emigrated. Once he became aware of this possibility, Merv went looking for them. His presentation will focus on how he found dozens of second cousins, and also a few first cousins of his father.

### **C1: A Little Walk Through the Cemetery**

Cemeteries are anything but silent; all of them have multiple stories to tell. A cemetery may also be an invaluable resource for a genealogist. There is a need to travel to our cemeteries, walk around them, observe what is there, and discover the useful information that we can find there. In stories from our Western Provinces, I will attempt to illustrate this as well as dangers that can rob us of these valuable resources. (John Althouse)

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### **C2: Digital and Microfilm Newspapers for Genealogical Research**

Newspapers were once the source of local news no matter the size of the community. Who travelled or had visitors, who moved or died were all important news. Newspapers can really 'put flesh on the bones'. Where once we had to travel to a repository to look at these collections, microfilm loan and internet access now allow us to do it locally. (Gordon McBean)

### **C3: Facebook Genealogy**

The online world has created a new way of learning about and accessing records. You can now connect with people around the world in a moment while accessing pictures and information on living people. Facebook has changed how we do genealogy and by looking past the status updates you may be able to fill in the missing pieces of your family history. (Tammy Vallee)

### **C4: Using DNA to Solve Genealogical Problems**

You've done your DNA test and now you are waiting for something to happen. You still have those brick walls you can't get over or that adopted ancestor that is blocking a branch of your family tree. What do you do next? This session is designed to give you some ideas on how to go about solving your genealogical problems by using real life examples of things you can do. Earl will share some success stories from his own DNA research and from helping others to give you an idea of the power of DNA genealogy to discover your roots. (Earl Schultz)

### **D1: Every Picture Tells a Story**

We all have treasured collections of family photographs. There is a story frozen in each of these images. By combining our genealogical discoveries and the technology available to us now with these graphic resources, we can find the story that is captured in them. John Althouse will employ two family photographs of his maternal Sattler family and others to illustrate this. Perhaps, this may even provide you with ideas to uncover stories from your family's stoic portraits.

### **D2: Excel – Organize - Analyze Genealogy Data**

There are many cases where you have a large amount of information that you need to organize and analyze. Spreadsheet software allows you to sort the data in multiple ways in order to look for patterns etc. Spreadsheet software also allows you to create genealogy forms. Print them as blanks to fill in with a pen, or type the info directly into the form. An organized genealogist is a successful genealogist. Spreadsheets can turn research logs, indexes, and other information into organized information. (Gordon McBean)

### **D3: Moving to a New Life: European Migration Records Beyond Ships' Lists**

Migration from Europe to the Americas dates from the 1600s. In 1918, Canada's population was about 8 million, when immigrants since 1902 accounted for an increase of 3 million. Your ancestors may have migrated through several geographic regions before ending up where you have found them. Beyond ships' passenger lists that are commonly consulted, investigate the other places to look for migration records. (Brenda Smith)

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### **D4: Identity Puzzle**

Self declaration, family stories, and hidden pasts can make understanding your Indigenous ancestry puzzling. By understanding the legal definitions, the resources available, and the application processes you can start to examine the pieces of your family's historical identity. (Tammy Vallee)

### **E1: Choosing Software for your Genealogical Research**

Genealogical software is essential to record and publish your genealogical research. What should you look for in selecting the right software and what are some of the problems. If you are still using paper to record your genealogical research or if you are thinking of switching software, you will find this discussion useful. This session will focus primarily on Family Tree Maker and Legacy Family Tree, the most popular apps. (Earl Schultz)

### **E2: Technology Toolkit – Tech We Can't Live Without**

What do you have in your genealogy toolkit? Gordon McBean will share his top technology items whether they be hardware such as portable scanners or essential software tools.

### **E3: A Matter of Fortune**

No matter how much a genealogist knows, how much information one gathers, how well one knows the resources, and how many courses one takes, genealogical success is often the result of luck. Luck comes in two types – good and bad. John Althouse will review two personal searches, one involving each type of luck, and provide suggestions to help you minimize the bad luck and hopefully maximize the good luck in your personal genealogical research.

### **E4: Intellectual Property: Yours and Mine**

Who owns what, and how can ethical family history researchers navigate the seemingly deep, dark forest of copyright legalese? The Golden Rule and basic understanding of the "Fair Dealing" principal demystify the ownership and use of ideas. (Brenda Smith)