



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

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Genealogy 101 Boot Camp Program

Three-Day Survey Course at NGS 2020 Conference

Note: Each topic may flow from session to session if time constraints demand. Order of sessions is subject to change.

Monday, Day 1

8:00-8:45: Boot Camp convenes in classroom

- ❖ Short introductions and presentation of research questions submitted by class members

9:00- 9:45: “Organizing Sparks Joy”

- ❖ Methods for organizing and keeping track of your research
 - Binders
 - types of software
 - online trees (collaborative vs. personal)
 - filing and/or digitizing paperwork
 - consistent recording

**Extend your depth of knowledge on organizing and tech tools at conference sessions
F308, F318, F320, F348, F358, S403, S413, S429, S443, S449, S453, S457**

10:00 - 11:00: “Collaborating Isn’t Treason”

- ❖ Home sources, family traditions, interviews, correspondence, and queries

**Extend your depth of knowledge on collaborating with others at conference sessions
F308 and F328**

11:15-12:30: “The GPS: A Guide to Your Genealogical Journey”

- ❖ Geographic Positioning system vs Genealogical Proof System
- ❖ Creating a research plan
- ❖ The 5 essential waypoints for Genealogy 101
 - Designing and conducting a reasonably exhaustive research
 - Recording complete, accurate source citations and understanding their inherent power
 - Analyzing and correlating documents; maintaining research logs
 - Resolving conflicts, including using timelines, tables, and visual elements
 - Writing conclusions, proof arguments, and the story of your ancestor (not the researcher): it’s not so hard!
- ❖ Research – Cite – Write – Repeat

**Extend your depth of knowledge on using evidence and the GPS at conference sessions
T214, T230, T241, T251, T254, F301, F303, F311, F321, F323, F351**

12:30-2:00: Lunch on your own

2:00-3:30: What evidence creates “proof”?

- ❖ Case Study illustrating how the use of many different types of documents and the FAN Club can be assembled and analyzed to reconstruct a family (census, land, tax, probate, court, church, military)
- ❖ Group activity

Extend your depth of knowledge on using the FAN Club through case studies at conference sessions T201, T203, T241, F313, F341, F343, F353, F355, S401, S404, S411, S414, S421, S423, S424, S441, S451, S454, S460

3:45-5:15: “Hatched, Matched, and Dispatched”

- ❖ Vital records and alternatives
 - church records & baptisms
 - civil/town records
 - tombstones
 - Bibles
 - Social Security applications and Social Security Death Index and Claims
 - family letters
 - newspaper obituaries & marriages
 - county histories
 - wills
- ❖ Class exercise: “Reconciling Joseph Philip Dillon’s Birthdate”

5:30-7:00: Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30 (optional):

- ❖ How to Search and Use Ancestry
- ❖ Brief discussion of practical DNA and Ancestry’s DNA tools

Extend your depth of knowledge on using Ancestry at conference sessions T216 and S409
Extend your depth of knowledge on using DNA (not just on Ancestry) at conference sessions T204, T206, T224, T226, T244, T246, T256, F360, S419, S459

Tuesday, Day 2:

8:00-9:00: “How I Built My Own Brick Wall”

9:15-10:30: “Time Travel: Census Records through the Years”

- ❖ Strengths and weaknesses of census records
- ❖ Federal census records of three eras (1790-1840; 1850-1870; and 1880-1940) and how to use pre-1850 tic marks
- ❖ Intro of nonpopulation schedules, mortality schedules, slave schedules
- ❖ State censuses
- ❖ Access and tips for searching
- ❖ Case study class exercise

Extend your depth of knowledge on censuses at conference sessions F354 and S407

10:45-11:45: “Raise Your Right Hand: Court and probate records”

- ❖ Motivations for going to court
- ❖ Types of court records
- ❖ Indexes
- ❖ Probates – more than just wills

- ❖ Criminal, victim, or witness?
 - ❖ Equity and chancery cases: non-criminal cases
 - ❖ Miscellaneous court records samples: mayor's letters, road repairs, apprenticeships & more
- Extend your depth of knowledge on court records at conference sessions T205, F305, S424**

12:00-1:30: Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30: Religious records and cemeteries

- ❖ Basics of church records
- ❖ Types of church records
- ❖ Accessing church records
- ❖ Church cemetery records: burial lists, plot deeds
- ❖ Basics of cemetery records
- ❖ Offline and online access
- ❖ Value of office and sexton's records

Extend your depth of knowledge on different religious records at conference sessions T219, T229, T242, T249, T259, F309, F319, F329, F349, F359

2:45-4:15: "Soldiering On: American Military Records Basics"

- ❖ Main records of the American Revolution through the Mexican-American War
 - CMSR, pension, bounty land
- ❖ Main records of the Civil War
 - CMSR, pension, Union and Confederate records, Soldiers' Homes
- ❖ WWI
 - Draft records
 - Burials
 - St. Louis
- ❖ WWII
 - Draft records
 - College Park

Extend your depth of knowledge on military records at conference sessions F306, F316, F326, F330, F346, F356

4:30-5:30: Case study: Identifying people of the same name (John Jacob Kramer)

Extend your depth of knowledge on using different types of evidence at conference sessions T214, T241, T254

5:30-7:00: Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30 (optional): "FamilySearch: Your Secret Weapon to Online Research"

- ❖ Introduction: Four ways to research
- ❖ The tree
- ❖ Historical records: search by name
- ❖ Historical records: browse all published collections
- ❖ The catalog

Extend your depth of knowledge on using FamilySearch.org at conference session T217

Wednesday, Day 3

8:00-9:00: *Class will attend the NGS Opening Session with Keynote Speaker]*

9:30-11:00: Industrial Revolution, Migration, and Urban research

- ❖ Using gazetteers and maps for migration and surnames (19th-century landowner atlases, online maps,
 - *Newberry Atlas of Historical Boundaries*
 - 19th-century landowner atlases, plat maps
 - Sanborn maps
 - University and other collections
- ❖ City directories
- ❖ Newspapers

Extend your depth of knowledge on the Industrial Revolution and migration patterns at conference sessions T220, T228, T242, T243, T247, T248, T258, S416, S418, S446, S448

11:15-12:45: “Hitting Pay Dirt”

- ❖ County land records: deeds, grantor/grantee indexes
- ❖ Taxes
- ❖ State land records
- ❖ Federal land records

Extend your depth of knowledge on land records and taxes at conference sessions T213, T223, T225, F345, S406, S408, S417, S426, S456

12:45-2:15: Lunch on your own

2:15-3:30: “Your Family in Print”

- ❖ Search techniques
- ❖ County histories
- ❖ Family histories
- ❖ Articles and how to find them
- ❖ Newspapers
- ❖ Repositories (and vertical files)
- ❖ Creating Your Own Digital Library
 - Accessing and downloading books and articles from sites such as Google Books, Internet Archive and the WayBackMachine, HathiTrust, FamilySearch
 - Wayback Machine
- ❖ Family history sites (Genealogy Gophers, Linkpendium, FamilySearch wiki, etc.)

Extend your depth of knowledge on publications and myriad repositories (real and virtual) at conference sessions T205, T208, T215, T218, T245, T255, T259, F301, F304, F305, F315, F320, F325, F350, S409, S410, S444, S445, S447, S457; also workshop S461

3:45-5:15: “The American Dream”

- ❖ The one and only thing that is shared by every American is that we are either an immigrant or a descendant of an immigrant.
 - 1607-ca 1815: headrights, indentured servants, convicts, German ships lists
 - ca 1815-ca 1890: Customs Lists; Castle Garden; Ellis Island and other ports
 - After 1890: Canadian border crossings; notations on ship manifest; naturalizations before and after the 1908 “magic date”?

Extend your depth of knowledge on immigration, naturalization, and foreign research at conference sessions T202, T207, T209, T212, T222, T227, T250, T252, T253, T257, T260, F302, F307, F312, F317, F322, F327, F324, F342, F347, F344, F352, F357, S401,

S402, S405, S412, S415, S422, S425, S450, S455; also workshops T262, T263, F361, F362, S428, S452, S462

5:30-6:30: Wrap-up

- ❖ Interactive research case
- ❖ Q & A
- ❖ **Course completion certificates**

6:30: Class Dinner (cost not included)