



April Newsletter



Curiosity Leads the Way — But It's Volunteers Who Light the Path

April is Global Volunteer Month, and after attending a recent in-person conference ([Connections 2025](#)), I was reminded just how much of the family history world depends on the generosity of volunteers. The event was a success not just because of great speakers or a well-run programme, but because of the many people who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm—without pay and often without recognition—to make it happen.

It's a familiar story in our field. Volunteers index records, answer questions in forums, manage society newsletters, and organise local meetings. They're the ones who digitise documents in dusty archives, transcribe hard-to-read handwriting, and help patrons navigate the research process. They do it because they're curious—curious about the past, about people, about untold stories—and they want to help you know your past too.

But the reality is, fewer people are stepping up. Many societies and projects are quietly struggling to find helping hands. One reason? Some potential volunteers worry they don't have the digital skills needed for the role.

That's where a course like the ***Digital Toolkit for Family Historians*** with **Andrew Redfern** can make a real difference. Designed to give you practical, hands-on skills, it equips you with the confidence to organise data, search smarter, create engaging visual outputs, and preserve your work securely. And while it's focused on research, the skills are transferable—whether you're scanning resources, indexing, or guiding others through the steps of discovery.

This month, we're celebrating those who keep things running behind the scenes—and encouraging anyone who's thought about getting involved to consider taking the leap. Even small acts of help can have a lasting impact. Curiosity may lead the way—but it's volunteers who light the path.

Cathie

[Image: Library/society volunteers in action, generated by DALL-E.]

Featured Course



Digital Toolkit for Family Historians: Essential Skills and Techniques

Join **Andrew Redfern** and unlock the full potential of your family history research with the **Digital Toolkit for Family Historians!** This hands-on course will sharpen your digital skills, helping you stay organised, improve research efficiency, and present your findings in creative, engaging ways. Whether you're managing files, mastering search techniques, or designing visual family trees, you'll gain practical strategies to streamline your workflow and bring your family history to life.

Dates: 15 & 29 April @ 7 PM Eastern US


FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER



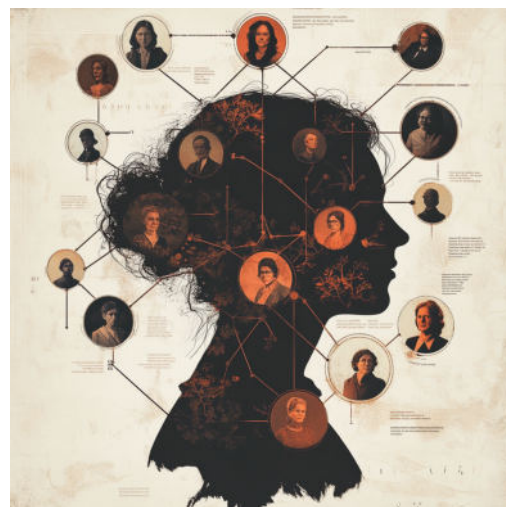
Stuck on a Brick Wall? We Can Help.

Join professional genealogists **Sue McNelly AG®** and **Robbie Johnson CG®** for a highly interactive, two-session workshop designed to help you break through research roadblocks.

Bring your challenge, get expert advice, and collaborate with fellow attendees in focused brainstorming sessions. With a digital workbook, shared resources, and ongoing support, you'll walk away with fresh strategies and renewed motivation.


 Practical. Supportive. Solution-focused.

Dates: 23 & 30 April 2025



Transforming Your Research with AI

We hear so much about using AI in family history—but how do you actually *do* it? Which tools are genuinely useful (and affordable)? In this two-part workshop, **Fiona Brooker** and **Andrew Redfern** will show you how to creatively repurpose your findings into shareable, meaningful formats—like articles, blog posts, visual stories, tables, and more.

 Ideal for researchers ready to move from facts to storytelling—with a little help from AI.

Dates: 21 & 28 May 2025

REGISTER NOW!

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The SnapShot Interview

A Conversation with Paul K. Graham



22 April 2025 @ 7.30 PM Eastern US

Coming Up - Mark Your Calendar

Join us on **22 April** for our next exclusive and free *SnapShot Interview* with **Paul K. Graham, CG®, CCGSM, AG®**, a triple-accredited professional genealogist with deep expertise in post-Civil War history of cities in the US South, unknown parentage cases, and historic land records. As a research manager at AncestryProGenealogists and a key contributor to *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Paul brings a wealth of insight into both documentary and DNA-based research.

We'll chat about his approach to solving complex genealogical puzzles, his work on Georgia's land lotteries, and what drives his fascination with obscure historical figures. Whether you're into Southern research, DNA mysteries, or just love hearing from top-tier professionals, this is one you won't want to miss.

How to Access the SnapShot Interview with Paul K. Graham

📌 **Step 1: Subscribe & Confirm**

To access the interview, first [subscribe via our website](#). After subscribing, check your email and **confirm your email address** to complete the process.

📌 Step 2: Register for This Interview

Once your email is verified, you'll receive a **confirmation email** with exclusive **subscriber-only access** to the recordings page. From there, you can also register via Zoom for the upcoming interview with Paul Graham on **22 April**. Simply click on the REGISTER NOW button! Enter your details for the session, and you're all set!

✅ Subscribers also receive periodic emails with a direct link to register for future interviews.

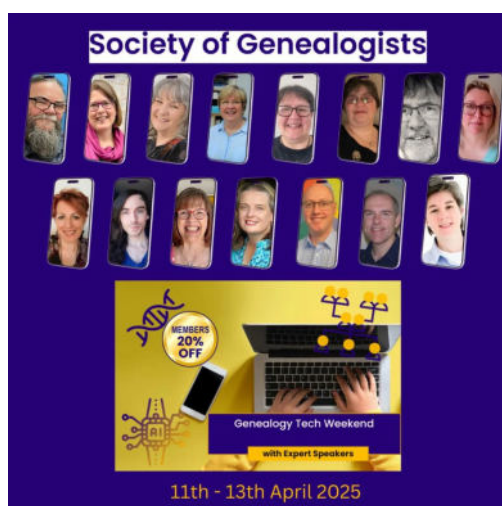
🔒 This two-step process helps prevent spam and ensures you only receive access to the interviews that interest you.

🗣 See you on **22 April or 23 April Down Under!**

Already subscribed but didn't receive the confirmation email? Check your spam folder. VPNs and pop-up blockers may also impact on the subscription process. You must confirm your email address to be added to the list.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Bits & Pieces



Genealogy Tech weekend - Society of Genealogists

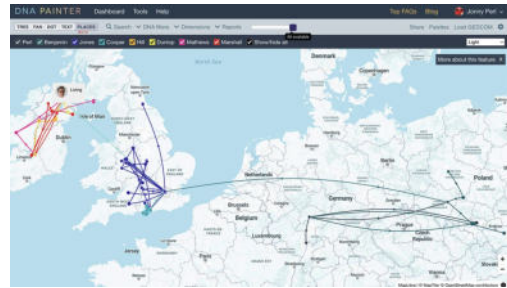
Join SoG for three days of practical tips, digital tools, and creative solutions to research, record, and share your family history. Enjoy online talks, live demos, and hands-on help covering everything from AI and apps to passwords and presentation tools—plus 95 software programs you may not have tried!

[PS I am one of the speakers.]

MORE INFORMATION

New from DNA Painter: Introducing *Places*

"This new mapping feature creates a kind of flight path, where each ancestor's birthplace connects to the next generation, ultimately leading to you. It shows the journey your genes took on their way to your body."



[READ MORE](#)



THE 24-HOUR GENEALOGY WEBINAR MARATHON

April 3-4, 2025

[Register Now](#)



The 6th Annual 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon hosted by FamilyTreeWebinars.com and MyHeritage begins Thursday, April 3 at 5pm eastern U.S. time (Friday, April 4 at 8am Sydney time) and ends on Friday, April 4 at 5pm eastern U.S. time (Saturday, April 5 at 8am Sydney time). There's still time to register!

[REGISTER](#)

What Happens to Your DNA When a Company Folds?

With 23andMe filing for bankruptcy, questions are being raised about the future of its users' genetic data—now in the hands of a bankruptcy court. While there's a chance for protective measures to be put in place, the situation highlights a broader issue: how little control individuals may have once personal data is collected.

This isn't a call to panic (I have not deleted my 23andMe data)—but it's a timely reminder of the need for stronger privacy protections, especially when it comes to sensitive information like DNA.

MIT Technology Review



[FULL ARTICLE](#)

REMEMBER: All Family History Academy courses are recorded and available for 14 days.

April 2025 Newsletter

Family History Academy

Capalaba, QLD
Australia



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