



**CAPITAL DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

"Improving Your Skills: What Do You Need?"

Saturday, May 30, 2020

8:00am - 8:30am Registration

8:30am - 8:45am

Welcome: Terri Moran, President, Capital District Genealogical Society

8:45am- 9:30am Keynote Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL

“After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA”

Catastrophic records loss due to fires and disasters at courthouses is a fact of life for genealogists. When a disaster takes out birth, marriage, death, court, land and probate records all in one fell swoop, it may still be possible to light our family’s research fires — to rekindle our interest in our ancestral roots — using DNA evidence.

9:30am - 10:00am Morning Break - visit Exhibitors

10:00am - 11:00am Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNG

“The Jones Jinx: Tracing Common Surnames”

This case study will explain how missing, erroneous, and altered records were overcome to identify the parents of an orphan named Jones. Attendees will learn research strategies that they can use to solve their own common-surname problems.

11:00am - 11:15am visit Exhibitors

11:15am - 12:15pm Meryl Schumacker, CG

“Let's Make Trying New Things in Genealogy Less Scary”

Going offline is a necessary step on the path to genealogical discoveries, but walking into an unfamiliar courthouse, research library, or even a genealogy conference can be downright scary. Learn tips to conquer your fear of the unknown and "level up" in your research.

12:15pm -1:30pm Luncheon Buffet - visit Exhibitors

1:30pm -2:30pm Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL

“Don’t Forget the Ladies” – A Genealogist’s Guide to Women and the Law

In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren’t there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to “protected” – second-class – status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today.

2:30pm - 2:45pm Afternoon Break - visit Exhibitors

2:45pm - 3:45pm Meryl Schumacker, CG

“Strategies for Urban Research”

Pinpoint the city dwellers in your family tree with methodologies and record types specific to New York's biggest cities. Learn to navigate urban geography, distinguish between same-name individuals, and work through census gaps and losses.

3:50pm - 4:50pm Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNG

“Out-of-State Workarounds for In-State Record Shortages”

Thomas Greenfield owned no land. He left no record of his heirs. This case study describes the reconstruction of his family—two wives and eighteen children—from direct and indirect evidence in DNA and common and obscure records from national to local levels mostly from states where Thomas never lived.