

Researching Family in the British Isles

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) has partnered with the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) to conduct a four day program of researching family in the British Isles. ISBGFH conducts the British Institute held annually in Salt Lake City to provide week-long education by well-known genealogists on the British Isles. On 13-16 August 2018, the ISBGFH has arranged for several presenters to provide an overview of researching British Isles topics at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These presentations will explore DNA, Scotland, Ireland and England research. London based genetic genealogist Dr. Maurice Gleeson, MB, will present on DNA and Irish research, Christine Woodcock, from Genealogy Tours of Scotland, will discuss Scottish research, and Frank Southcott, President, ISBGFH, will explore the English records.

The HSP program is designed to be attended either on a given day and topic or in its entirety. It is an in-depth overview of British Isles research and enhances attendance for those who may desire to attend the British Institute where morning instruction and afternoon independent research are conducted in the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City on a country topic. More information is available on the British Institute at www.isbgfh.org.

The HSP curriculum for each day involves 4 presentations of one hour and fifteen minutes each. Monday, 13 August 2018, Dr Gleeson, MB, will explore advances made in DNA and how it can be applied to your British Isles research. Christine Woodcock will discuss the uniqueness of Scottish research on Tuesday, 14 August 2018. Dr. Gleeson will return on Wednesday, 15 August 2018, to present on the ever increasing resources available on Irish research, and Thursday, 16 August 2018, Frank Southcott, will examine English genealogical resources. [A detailed curriculum is available here.]

The cost of the four day program will be \$299. Individual program days are available for \$99 per day. Limited consultation slots will be available on DNA, Scotland and Ireland during the program for \$125 hour. [The available slots are found here.]

Description of Presentations (Curriculum)

Monday 13 August 2018 – DNA

- **An introduction to DNA testing for Genealogy**

This introductory talk will explain the basics of DNA testing, the three main types of test, how each one can be applied in practice (with examples), and which one is best for you to specifically address your genealogical conundrums.

- **Using Y-DNA to research your surname of choice**

Anyone can research any particular surname (i.e. family name) that they want - you just need to find the right cousin to test. Y-DNA is eminently suited to surname research because it follows the same path as hereditary surnames i.e. back along the father father father line. This talk explores surname DNA studies and what they can reveal about your surname.

- **Applying autosomal DNA to your family history research - the theory**

The most popular of the DNA tests is the autosomal test. This can be used to research all of your ancestral lines (as opposed to Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA which only help you explore a single ancestral line each). This talk explores the basic science behind autosomal DNA testing, the secrets to successfully applying it, and how it can be combined with other tests and genealogy to help answer specific genealogical questions.

- **Applying autosomal DNA to your family history research - the practice**

This is a more in-depth look at the use of autosomal DNA, including a step-by-step approach to tackling your matches, the concept of triangulation, the use of third party tools, and how techniques used to help adoptees trace their birth family can also help us to break thru our genealogical Brick Walls.

Tuesday 14 August 2018 - Scotland

- **Breaking Through Brick Walls in Scottish Research**

Scottish documents contain a wealth of information and can make researching so much easier when you really take a look at what the documents are telling you. It becomes important to really pay attention to the key words on the documents so that you know what records you need to look at next in order to break through brick walls and learn as much as you can about your Scottish ancestors. In this presentation we will look at the key words on the documents that may help break down the brick wall. Then we will look at where those records exist and how you can access them.

- **In Search of Your Scottish Ancestors: Search Your Roots; Discover Your Heritage**

While many people want to know more about their Scottish heritage, they don't know where to begin. Fortunately, researching our Scottish ancestors is a fairly easy task. Knowing where to look is usually where we get tied up. This presentation will get you started in researching your Scottish ancestry as well as how to make the most of your research. Topics Include: starting your search, reaching out to others, ScotlandsPeople website, Scottish naming patterns, marriages and family history societies.

- **Online and Offline Databases for Scottish Genealogy Research**

There comes a time when you have done all of the online researching you can do using the standard databases. In this presentation you will learn of the databases that aren't as well known but that can assist in breaking through your brick walls. These include: websites for researching Scottish occupations, websites specific to the genealogy of regions where your ancestors might have lived, emigration databases, military databases, witchcraft databases, medieval ancestry, and British newspapers.

- **The Great Exodus: From Scotland to the Americas**

This session will help you understand the importance of the events in Scottish history that led to a large number of Scots leaving their homeland for life in the Americas. In order to be successful researching in the Scottish records, we need to know *where* in Scotland our ancestors originated. Bridging the gap between finding them in the North American records (birth, marriage, death and census records) and being able to locate them in the Scottish records may seem like a daunting task. However, it is often less of a challenge and more of a reward if you understand what brought them here in the first place. Some clues can be taken from the major historic events in Scottish history that led to Scots leaving their homeland.

Wednesday 15 August 2018 - Ireland

- **Tracing Your Ancestors Back to Ireland**

For many Irish-Americans, all they know is their ancestor “came from Ireland” but they have no further information than that. This talk gives an overview of the various techniques & records available in the US (and elsewhere) that can be used to help trace your ancestor back to where they came from in Ireland. These include shipping records, emigration records, but also surname dictionaries and distribution maps.

- **Irish Church and Civil Registration Records**

In the last year or so, many of the civil registration records are coming online. Most of these are now available for free via www.irishgenealogy.ie and digital images of the original record can be downloaded. Civil registration started in 1864 for most records. Prior to this, one has to rely on church records for tracing further back and these can be very helpful indeed or not at all - coverage is patchy and most records peter out around 1800-1830. However, all of Ireland is covered by two websites and most of this research can be done from the comfort of your own home.

- **Census, Census Substitutes, and Land Records**

Census records survive for only 1901 and 1911, with some scraps from other years. Griffith's Valuation can be very helpful as a mid-1800 census substitute but it is the Cancelled or Revised Valuation Books that provide a wealth of information that allow tracing relatives forward and backward from the present day to the 1850s. We will also look at the Tithe Applotment books and the Registry of Deeds.

- **Less Common Irish Genealogical Records**

This talk explores the wealth of genealogical material to be found in newspapers, cemeteries, probate, petty session court records, & dog licenses. We will also explore some of the resources that everyone should be using as a routine part of their ongoing Irish research.

Thursday 16 August 2018 - England

- **Researching Your Family in England: Census and National Registration**

A useful England census has been conducted every 10 years since 1841 and is accessible through 1911. It is the primary resource to establish families in England during that period. England also conducted a national registration in 1939 as an ancillary of WWII. Both of these resources will be explored during this session.

- **Researching Your Family in England: Civil Registration**

Civil registration of birth, marriages and deaths commenced on 1 July 1837. Explore the records and idiosyncrasies of the registration process in England and how to obtain the information for your family.

- **Researching Your Family in England: Wills and Church Records**

Wills survive from early times. Baptisms, marriages and burials survive in a great number of parishes from the mid-1500's. This session will explore the available probate and church records and the wealth of information that can be derived.

- **Researching Your Family in England: London**

Situated on the Thames, London has been the central metropolis of England since before the Romans. Explore the geography, records and repositories of researching your family in this vast city.

Daily Presentation Schedule

9:00-10:15 AM

10:30-11:45 AM

1:15-2:30 PM

2:45-4:00 PM

Consultation Periods (4 slots each day)

Monday, 13 August 2018 – Scotland Research (Christine Woodcock)

9:00-10:00 AM

10:15-11:15 AM

1:15-2:15 PM

2:30-3:30 PM

Tuesday, 14 August 2018 – Ireland or DNA Research (Maurice Gleeson, MB)

9:00-10:00 AM

10:15-11:15 AM

1:15-2:15 PM

2:30-3:30 PM

Instructor Biographies

Maurice Gleeson



Maurice Gleeson is a psychiatrist and pharmaceutical physician as well as a genetic genealogist. He is administrator of several Surname DNA Projects, including the Gleason, Spearin, Farrell, Boylan, & Maloney Projects. He also works with adoptees and with people of unknown parentage and has appeared on Irish TV as a consultant for the TV series Adoption Stories. He authors several blogs (e.g. DNA and Family Tree Research) and is a regular contributor to genealogical magazines. His YouTube videos on genetic genealogy are very popular. He has organized the DNA Lectures for "Genetic Genealogy Ireland" in Dublin and "Who Do You Think You Are" in the UK since 2012, as well as given talks all over Ireland, the UK, and internationally. He was voted "Genetic Genealogist of the Year 2015" (SurnameDNA Journal) and "Superstar Genealogist, Ireland" in 2016 (Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections).

Christine woodcock



Christine Woodcock is a genealogy educator with an expertise in the Scottish records. She began researching her family history following the death of her mother and grandmother who were the storytellers of the family. Christine's mother was one of 21 children and although Christine and her parents emigrated to Canada when Christine was quite young, she grew up immersed in Scottish culture. When speaking to groups and societies about Scottish research, Christine recognized that a large percentage of the Scots Diaspora had never been to Scotland. To allow researchers the opportunity to research in the records in their ancestral homeland, Christine began her business, Genealogy Tours of Scotland. When not organizing genealogy research tours to Scotland, Christine lectures on Scottish genealogy, hosts webinars, authors blogs and articles. She also writes and instructs courses on Scottish genealogy. Christine is the editor for *British Connections*, a quarterly newsletter for the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. She authored Moorshead Magazine's Special, "Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry" Issue which was published in May 2017. Along with her business partner, Christine is one of the co-founders of the Great Canadian Genealogy Summit, Canada's only national genealogy conference and one that features all Canadian Speakers.

Frank Southcott



Frank Southcott is a professional genealogist residing in Chester County, Pennsylvania, who specializes in the early colonial period records. He has researched extensively in the British Isles for maternal and paternal family lines. Frank is President, International Society for British Genealogy and Family History, which conducts the annual British Institute in Salt Lake City each year. He is a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Genealogical Advisory Committee and has coordinated numerous genealogical educational presentations. He is a graduate of the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research program and holds a Master in Business Administration degree.