

Augusta Genealogical Society

Proudly Welcomes

2021 Symposium Featured Speaker

Elissa Scalise Powell

“Researching Your Pennsylvania Heritage”

Saturday, August 7, 2021, 9 am -4 pm

Virtual Program

Elissa Scalise Powell, Certified Genealogist®, a western Pennsylvania researcher for over 30 years, is the co-director of the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and “Genealogy as a Profession” course coordinator since 2007 at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). She was an instructor and module creator for Boston University’s Genealogical Research Certificate program (2008 - 2016). She was the mentor for Pro Gen Study’s 1st, 25th and 50th groups and author of two chapters in the 2018 Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice and Standards book. She was the course co-coordinator of the AG/CG Preparation Course at the 2010 and 2013 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). She was honored with the Association of Professional Genealogists 2017 Professional Achievement Award, and in 2010, with the NGS President’s Citation in recognition of outstanding, continuing, or unusual contributions to the field of genealogy. She is a regional and national speaker on such topics as Pennsylvania records, methodology, professional development, and society management.



PRESENTATION TOPICS

Problems and Pitfalls of Reasonably Shallow Research. Assumptions, misinterpretations, and not digging deep enough into original records can mislead research, sometimes for years. By following the principles of reasonably exhaustive research and the incentive to make it a part of usual research habits, attendees will learn about particular pitfalls to watch for and how to remedy them.

Primer to Pennsylvania Records. Pennsylvania records and courthouses may be confusing with an indexing system that may not be familiar to every researcher. This lecture will help the attendee gain a better understanding of how to begin research in the Keystone State and types of records contained in every Pennsylvania Courthouse: the Recorder of Deeds, the Register of Wills, and the Prothonotary, along with access strategies.

How Did My Pennsylvania Ancestor Get There? Migration Trails Out of the Keystone State. Considering the trails and push and pull reasons why your ancestor left Pennsylvania will give you some clues as to where you might search for his origins there. Equally important is the mode he used according to what was available at the time of migration.

Sailing Into the Sunset: Tips for Finding Your Ancestors on Passenger Lists. Finding ancestors on passenger lists depends on at least three things: being able to recognize him with the limited information on the list, understanding if a record even exists, and working the transcribed indexes correctly. Examples will be shown of 18thCentury, 19thCentury, and 20thCentury passenger lists and search strategies.

Cost: \$35 members, \$45 for non members. Join AGS now and enjoy the benefits of being a member.

For additional information go to www.augustagensociety.org. Or call 706-722-4073