



The North Carolina Genealogical Society presents
NCGS 2025 Virtual Conference
28-29 March 2025 – Speaker Biographies
Go to: www.ncgenealogy.org



Nicole Dyer

Roberta Estes

J. Mark Lowe

Bernard Meisner

David McCorkle

Judy G. Russell

Craig R. Scott

Michael Strauss

Nicole Dyer, BA

Nicole Dyer is a professional genealogist specializing in Southern United States research and genetic genealogy. She is the creator of FamilyLocket.com and the Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast. She co-authored the books *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* and *Research Like a Pro with DNA* and is an instructor for the study groups of the same name. She lectures at local and national conferences and previously served as the secretary and publicity chair of the Pima County Genealogy Society. Nicole holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in History Teaching. At Family Locket Genealogists, Nicole is a project manager, editor, genetic genealogy specialist, and Southern States researcher.

Roberta Estes

Roberta Estes, author of the book, *DNA for Native American Genealogy*, and popular blog www.DNAexplain.com is a scientist, National Geographic Genographic affiliate researcher, Million Mito team member and founding pioneer in the genetic genealogy field. An avid 40-year genealogist, Roberta has written over 1500 articles at DNAexplained about genetic genealogy as well as how to combine traditional genealogy with DNA to solve those stubborn ancestor puzzles. Roberta took her first DNA test in 1999 and hasn't stopped.

J. Mark Lowe, FUGA

J. Mark Lowe describes himself as “born to be curious.” He is a professional genealogist, author, and lecturer who specializes in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. Mark enjoys opportunities to share what he has learned over the years through YouTube, webinars, and institutes. He serves as the Course Coordinator for ‘Research in the South’ at IGHR (Georgia), SLIG (Utah), and TIGR (Texas), does webinars for Legacy Family Tree Webinars and has worked on several genealogical television series including *Follow Your Past*, *African American Lives 2*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *UnXplained Events*, and podcasts, including *Twice Removed* and *Blast From My Past*.

Mark has published in the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly* (APGQ), *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (NGSQ), *FGS' FORUM*, *The Longhunter* (So. Ky. Genealogical Society), *Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *North Carolina Genealogical Quarterly*, and other society publications. He is a Past President of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and Past President of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society. Mark is a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Society and was awarded the Graham T. Smallwood award and Lifetime Membership award by the Association of Professional Genealogists.

David M. McCorkle

David M. McCorkle is a land records expert with research experience in a wide variety of other records used by genealogists and is currently working with ways of using Artificial Intelligence tools to assist in genealogical research. He created the free website <http://nclandgrants.com> which contains 1.2 million images of original NC land grant documents. David has given webinars and in-person lectures to national, state, local, corporate, and government audiences on a wide variety of genealogy topics. He is actively involved with many genealogy organizations, including President of the North Carolina Genealogical Society.

David is President and founder of NC Historical Records Online, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which provides public online access to images of original records useful to researching NC history and genealogy. He is a native of North Carolina with deep roots on many lines dating back to the mid-1700s, primarily in the Mecklenburg County area. David has been working in the software industry for close to 50 years and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Bernard Meisner, PhD

Bernard Meisner began researching his family over 30 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from that experience, including his mistakes. Although he knew only one grandparent— his maternal grandfather— he has successfully identified all his great-great-grandparents, several third- and fourth-great-grandparents, and his Meisner eighth-great- grandparents. He is co-leader of the Dallas Genealogical Society's German SIG and a member of the TxSGS, Germanic, and NGS Genealogical Societies.

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG®, CGL®

Judy G. Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*®, is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches, and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, providing expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. A Colorado native with roots deep in the American South on her mother's side and entirely in Germany on her father's side, she holds a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Before she retired, she worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor, and, for more than 20 years, as an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers Law School.

She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, and numerous state and regional genealogical societies. A recipient of the Silver Tray Award from the Utah Genealogical Association and the 2017 *Award of Excellence* from the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, she now serves on the NGSQ editorial board.

Craig R. Scott, MA, CG®, FUGA

Craig Roberts Scott has authored seventeen books and several articles in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, and other genealogical publications. He is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 9,500 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-five years, he specializes in military records, problem-solving, Quakers, and publishing. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians, on the editorial board of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, a former Treasurer and Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

He has been a faculty member or coordinator of research tracks at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh. He is a recipient of the Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr. Award and the UGA Silver Tray Award. He became a Fellow, Utah Genealogical Association, in 2014.

Michael L. Strauss, AG®

Michael L. Strauss is a professional credited genealogist and a nationally recognized genealogical speaker. He has been employed as a forensic genealogist for 25 years, has a BA in history, and is a United States Coast Guard veteran. Michael is also a qualified expert witness in the courts in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia and an approved genealogist with the United States Army to locate DNA-qualified persons MIA from Korea, Vietnam, and World War II. Strauss has been a faculty member of IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP, has been involved in Civil War reenacting for more than 25 years, and reenacts the Mormon Battalion with the Utah Living History Association.