

1. Genealogy Today: Where We've Been and Where We're Going!

A look at what's ahead in this amazing world of new genealogical technology that also emphasizes the importance of humanizing our ancestors and not allowing our new tools to dictate our direction as we all climb the family tree. Talk incorporates many experiences from his best-selling books on serendipity & intuition in genealogy, now in their 9th printings from Genealogical Publishing Co. and dramatized on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" program; these talks also discuss our prime task as family historians of putting flesh and blood on our skeletons of names and dates, making our ancestors come alive again!

2. When the Sources are Wrong!

A study of primary and secondary sources often found to be in error, how to spot them and then overcome these troublesome obstacles as we climb the family tree. This topic is a universal one- touching every ethnic group and every timeframe! A problem every genealogist has to deal with in research and what to do to solve the problems that erroneous sources present; many problems presented by new technology are also discussed, as well as the strengths and dangerous flaws in the genealogical tools we all commonly use like the IGI and the internet.

3. Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact from Fiction in Genealogical Research

A look at how long-held family traditions can be twisted and changed over the years. Using Jost Hite, "The Baron of the Shenandoah Valley" as a textbook example of how tradition can go wrong, this documented study has lessons for us all. Something we all have to sort out in every family: the case history of Jost Hite is examined, dissected, and made relevant to all attendees; that Hite was eventually discovered to be the son of the local butcher in his ancestral European village - not a Baron at all - should be no surprise to experienced genealogists.

4. Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Century Palatine & Other Emigrants

A lively discussion emphasizing the how-to's of pinpointing, and then fully tracing the European roots of our ancestors. A step-by-step plan of attack, showing how "They Came Together, They Stayed Together!" This is one of my special areas of expertise, subject of many of my books including my brand-new three volume, 2600 page set "Even More Palatine Families;" the methodology in tracing an emigrant is often the same, so other ethnic groups and time-frames and how to document them overseas are also discussed in this talk - a step by step plan for a successful emigrant search!

5. The Great Genealogists & What Made Them Great!

Some legendary family historians of the past, and how they attained successful research results. By studying their attitudes and methodology, we can improve our own genealogical work and bring it to a higher level of quality.