

Tom is an award-winning author, editor, educator, and researcher focusing on challenging genealogical problems. He has earned a PhD in education, and he holds certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He speaks often for local, state, national, and international genealogical societies and teaches week-long courses at genealogy institutes. He co-edited *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly* in 2003–18 and wrote the textbooks *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* and *Mastering Genealogical Proof*.

*Combining Sources to Identify an Immigrant Origin and Arrival Record*

An immigrant German-speaking family's lore gives four countries of origin and scant information about their American arrival. Potential records for the family's arrival, composition, and European origin differ from family stories. Can the conflicts be resolved? Can their European roots, relationships, and arrival record be confidently identified?

*Building a Credible Lineage, Despite Missing Information, Conflicting and Incorrect Records, and Undocumented Publications*

A case study teaches how to establish credibility of undocumented genealogies, merge seemingly separate identities, remedy record errors, resolve conflicting evidence, and separate same-named men.

*Overcoming Research Barriers: A Case Study*

The story of researching the origins and genealogy of a German-speaking immigrant who settled in St. Louis and Southern Illinois provides lessons on research planning and execution, research barriers, sources, and biographical reconstruction of long forgotten lives and relationships.

*Finding "Unfindable" Ancestors*

The failure of common research practices to identify ancestors does not mean they are unfindable. This session will describe and demonstrate nine approaches to locating difficult-to-trace ancestors.