

# Speak!

The Online Newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild



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*The next issue of **Speak!** will be published in March 2025*

## From Our President

### Welcome to our new members!

I emailed a colleague and fellow Guild member last week, telling her that I had planned to get back working the week of 6 January, but it just did not happen. Other than having the great opportunity to drive to Baxley, Georgia, the city my father grew up near, and speaking to the Appling County Historical Society, I was not feeling it. Then, I drove past the old homestead, where, for the last

50 years, the tobacco barn has been the only thing still standing. Appling took a beating during Hurrican Helene and damaged the tobacco barn, but she still stands!

Now that 2024 has closed, I hope you all hit the goals you set for yourself for the year. I did, with two last-minute presentations. I have kept the last New Year’s resolution I made, which was never again to make a New Year’s resolution. I set goals for how many presentations I want to give and other business and personal goals.

The Guild is financially strong, and we are looking forward to a productive 2025. However, we need more volunteers. We will have a booth at the NGS Conference in Louisville and will need some booth coverage. Please let me know if you will be attending NGS and are willing to give some time to the GSG. If you’d like to set up a small table for the Guild at a conference you are attending, just let me know and I’ll send materials, although perhaps not all our brochures.

Our membership numbers are up this year, and I hope you are all promoting the Guild as you present. I have decided that besides having a giant question mark, the last slide of my presentations now has the Guild logo, so I remember to say something about it.

We restarted our educational series with a great presentation by David McCorkle on using AI to help with presentations. We want to conduct four more this year so please submit topics you would like to present or ones you would like to hear.

Thanks for listening!

*Larry*



**Announcements:**

The Genealogical Speakers Guild is looking for a National Booth Coordinator to help us with the booth at NGS this year as well as volunteers to cover the booth for part of the conference. Please email me at

[President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org](mailto:President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org)

Larry W. Thomas  
PO Box 1511  
Powder Springs, GA 30127-7511

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Welcome to our New Members – 20 Aug 2024 – 31 Dec 2024**

We welcome the following new members of GSG who joined, or rejoined, us. We look forward to your contributions to the Guild!

**Sylvia Doolos**

**Jim Thornhill**

**Kathryn Lake Hogan**

**Natalie Webb**

*We also want to acknowledge our members who have renewed – thank you for your continued support.*

Julia A. Anderson

LaDonna Garner

Cheri Hudson Passey

David B Appleton

Diane Henriks

Diane L. Richard

Kelley Barrett

Jean Wilcox Hibben

Diane Rogers

Jeffrey A. Bockman

Richard Hill

Renate Yarborough  
Sanders

Debra Braverman

Debra Hoffman

Craig R. Scott

Caron Primas Brennan

Peggy Jude

Susan Schlichting

Claire V. Brisson-Banks

Winona I. Laird

Janice Sellers

Dawn Carlile

Deborah A. Mayes

Debbe Smyth

Sara Cochran

Jamie Lee McManus  
Mayhew

Michelle Spencer

Linda Coffin

Judy Nimer Muhn

Lisa Vogele

Karen Fortin



## MEMBER NEWS

The Genealogical Speakers Guild is dependent upon its volunteers. Please consider helping keep our organization viable by providing some of your time and talents to support its valuable mission.

### THE GUILD IS IN NEED: Number 1!

We need three Guild members – who are not members of the Board – to be on the nominating committee for the upcoming election. The vice president, secretary, and one director are elected in odd-numbered years. The committee is responsible for presenting at least one name for each vacant position.

### THE GUILD IS IN NEED: Number 2!

The Nominations Committee will be seeking members interested in serving the Guild. We are all busy, but can you find some time that you can contribute to improving your Guild? Do you have expertise that would benefit the Guild and, by benefiting the Guild, benefit the members?

If you have interest in seeking any of these positions: vice president, secretary, or director, please send your name and contact information to [President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org](mailto:President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org).

This is not the time to be shy!

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Once again, I apologize for the tardiness of this issue.

*Speak!* is scheduled to be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, June, September, and December. In order to meet these dates, any and all information must be submitted, ideally, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the publication date, but no later than the first day of the publication month.

Announcements of upcoming programs, awards received by GSG members, speaking opportunities, articles on new technology, the passing of Guild members, etc., are examples of what sort of input is needed for our publication.

Additionally, we provide a forum to introduce members to each other through our Members' Profiles. Have you been profiled since you joined, or in the last ten years? If not, please let your fellow members know who you are by completing a member questionnaire.

*Speak!* is your newsletter. Without your (timely) input, there is no *Speak!*

Respectfully,

Lauren Maehrlein, Editor *Speak!*



## GSG MEMBERS SPEAK AT

### NORTH CAROLINA GS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The North Carolina Genealogical Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a two-day hybrid conference, 25 & 26 October 2024, focused on Artificial Intelligence, DNA, and NC research. There were 15 lectures and two workshops given by nine speakers, five of them (over half!) were Genealogical Speakers Guild members: David M. McCorkle, Cheri Hudson Passey, Diane L. Richard, Renate Yarborough Sanders, and Edward Swierczewski. There were just over 300 attendees, with around 130 in person in Raleigh, NC, and the rest online.

The GSG had a table in the vendor room overseen by GSG member Diane L. Richard, Vice President Michele Doyle, and Treasurer David M. McCorkle. Flyers were made

available for organizations looking for speakers and for speakers interested in joining, as well as personal information provided by those who spoke.

In addition to lectures and workshops, there was a NC genealogy/history trivia quiz followed by a “meet and greet” reception which included speakers and vendors. Awards in several categories, and door prizes, were presented at lunch. Topping it all off, attendees enjoyed our 50th Anniversary celebration cake and NC State University’s Howling Cow ice cream.

NCGS plans to hold another two-day hybrid conference, 24 & 25 October, in Raleigh, and will be calling for lecture proposals soon.

### CONFERENCES AND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

With so many conferences going virtual, it is a little hard to keep up with them all! Conference Keeper (<https://conferencekeeper.org/>) offers a calendar with all kinds of events (individual webinars, conferences, and institutes) – virtual and in-person. Some events are offered free; others have an admission fee. Check it out, today.

The website also provides a page for Calls for Presentations & Papers at <https://conferencekeeper.org/call-for-papers/>.

### IDEAS FOR ADVERTISING WITH YOUR GSG WEB PAGE

Add a link to your business website from your GSG member web page and vice versa. Add a link to your GSG member web page from other personal or directory web pages (such as your APG, BCG, or any other society member page). These are ideal opportunities to maximize your exposure with minimum rekeying of your information.



## GSG WEBSITE – ‘UPLOAD A PDF’ OPTION

In June 2021, we announced that a new feature had been added to the GSG website—the ability to upload a PDF file to your profile. The feature allows you to add even more value to the public profile seen by prospective clients. You can upload a PDF of your speaker brochure, a listing of your current lectures, etc. (The file must be a PDF file.)

After logging in, go to the Member's Corner and click on "Edit My Profile." Next click on the "Contact" tab at the top of the page. Then go about halfway down the page and you will find the PDF Upload entry after the Time Zone entry. Click on Browse, find your document, and upload it. On the public side, anyone visiting your profile page will be able to download the PDF. When you need to replace it, instructions can be found on the "Edit Profile Guidance" page. If you haven't used it yet, we hope that you find this feature useful and valuable. If you have other suggestions for the website, please do not hesitate to let us know. Email: [president@genealogicalspeakersguild.org](mailto:president@genealogicalspeakersguild.org)

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## GSG LOGO FOR USE BY MEMBERS

The GSG logo is available for use by all active members in their printed and electronic business materials. The downloadable logo can be found in the Members' Corner of the website. Please address any technical issues you may have about downloading the logo to [webmaster@genealogicalspeakersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@genealogicalspeakersguild.org). We also have a reversed logo if you want to sometimes use it as the background during virtual presentations.



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*Do you have an educational program you would like to present? Send your name, contact information, presentation title, and short abstract, to [President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org](mailto:President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org). We do pay an honorarium.*

*Also, if there's a topic that you would like to hear more about, please let us know.*

## OUR MEMBERS AT WORK



Welcome to **GenWebinars**, founded by GSG members David M McCorkle and Diane L. Richard. We offer:

- In-depth genealogy webinars (it's the only way we know how to present information!)

- Interactive sessions with polls, an extended Q&A / discussion period & more
- Detailed handouts and additional supporting materials
- Flexible scheduling with multiple sessions to fit your busy schedule

While we love presenting at conferences and organizations, their timing, length, Q & A, or topic selection may not always be ideal. That's why we're offering you our most popular talks and relevant niche topics directly! All talks will be presented at least twice on different days and times within a short window and repeated in the future. We also offer four webinar FOCUS programs, four related topics in a bundle (though the webinars can be taken individually as well), and in 2025, we will be introducing two-fer programs; sometimes one hour isn't enough, but twice that amount split across two sessions is.

Visit our website, <https://genwebinars.com/>, to discover what we're about, check out our upcoming webinars, and sign up to receive our quarterly newsletter, **GenWebinars Live!**

Check out our **GenWebinars** *FaceBook* page, where we list all upcoming programs (as Events), and will periodically spotlight specific upcoming webinars! <https://www.facebook.com/genwebinars>. You can also find us on *LinkedIn*, <https://linkedin.com/company/102737308>.

Use code **speak25rs** on orders placed before 31 March 2025 to receive \$5 off your first webinar. An individual may only use the coupon once.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us via [info@genwebinars.com](mailto:info@genwebinars.com)

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## UPCOMING LECTURES

GSG member **Bonnie Wade Mucia**, [keeperofthepastgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:keeperofthepastgenealogy@gmail.com), announced her upcoming 2024 presentations:

- 4 Feb: Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council (CPGC) "Using Historical Context in Genealogy: Gettysburg Case Study"
- 19 Feb: Legacy Tree Webinar: "Navigating the Mayflower Families Silver Books: A Guide for Genealogists"
- March: RootsTech online "Navigating the Mayflower Families Silver Books: A Guide for Genealogists"
- 15 March: Connecticut Genealogy Society, "The Mayflower Silver Books for Genealogists"

## GSG EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

On 3 Dec 2024, an Educational Webinar was provided in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. We want to thank, again, David McCorkle for his program, *Using AI to Enhance Your Presentations*. If you were unable to attend this webinar, one of the benefits of membership is that the recording and handouts are available for members on the website. After logging onto the website, hover over "Member's Corner" in the left-hand panel, choose "Webinars" from the menu, then click on David's webinar. You will find the information for viewing the recording and the link to the recording and handouts near the bottom of the page.

## GSG 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held on 3 Dec 2024 and the video is available on the website. After logging in, click on "Member's Corner" in the left-hand panel, choose "Annual Meeting Minutes," then choose "December 2024 Annual Meeting – Video."

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## SPEAKER SOUGHT

The Champaign County Historical Archives in Urbana, Illinois, is looking for someone to do an in-person beginner genealogy workshop on a Saturday in late spring or early summer this year (April, May, or June). Might any Genealogical Speakers Guild members in Illinois be interested?

Please contact:

**Sara Bennett, Archives Librarian**

**she/her/hers**

[sbennett@urbanafree.org](mailto:sbennett@urbanafree.org)

217-531-7041

210 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801

[urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org) Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)



## **HIRING A SPEAKER**

Our professional genealogical speakers are eager to help you deliver a quality event. Visit our directory of speakers at [Directory of Members – Genealogical Speakers Guild](#). Here are some helpful guidelines for working with our professional genealogical speakers.

### ***Organization/Society***

- Contacts the speaker well in advance of the event and advertises only after a written agreement is reached.
- Provides written confirmation of the engagement including topics, arrangements, and compensation.
- Sends a draft of promotional materials including proposed presentation schedule.
- Organizes the event including location, publicity, and logistics.
- Furnishes the required audio-visual equipment.
- Appoints a host to assist the speaker with local arrangements.
- Compensates speaker at close of the event, according to agreed terms which may include honorarium, travel, and other expenses.

### ***Speaker***

- Provides written confirmation of the engagement including the topics to be presented.
- Informs organization/society in advance about requirements including audio-visual needs and any special dietary or lodging needs.
- Informs organization/society in advance about whether recordings (audio or video) are allowed.
- Sends handout material, if any, in advance to allow organization/society to duplicate it, and includes written permission for the society to print.
- Gives well-organized, educational lectures on the agreed-upon topics.
- Provides information and materials in a timely fashion.

### ***Organization/Society and Speaker***

- Each should maintain communication with the other about arrangements for the event.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO GUILD MEMBERSHIP?

- Display of brochures at various genealogical conferences
- **Speak!** Newsletter
- Inclusion in online directory
- Website links
- Banner promotion of speakers at major conferences

These offerings are all great and help your businesses, but there's more!

Have you joined the Facebook™ group and page? Have you used them? "Why?" you ask.

- To connect with other speakers in, or near, your area – your physical area and/or your area of research.
- To ask advice about purchases, business practices, etc.
- To connect with other speakers to share ideas.
- And much more.

Have you volunteered in the Guild booth at the national conferences? **Yes!** This is a benefit. The networking opportunities to interact with the public—the public that hires you—is great. You can talk directly to the program chairs of many societies and their members, promoting not only the Guild, but yourself as well.

Have you offered your time to help with Guild matters, either on the board or as part of a committee? Have you shared your expertise in **Speak!**? You'll have the opportunity to meet and work with like-minded individuals who enjoy working to continue the mission and legacy of the Guild.

Membership renewal allows you to take advantage of all the various benefits of the *Genealogical Speakers Guild*.



### NOT A MEMBER??

Join the Genealogical Speakers Guild to take advantage of its benefits (see page 9) and the expertise and experience of accumulated knowledge from its outstanding roster of speakers.

Sign in at [Join GSG – Genealogical Speakers Guild](#) and choose from various levels of membership:

- **Membership Plans**
  - 1 Year Membership - \$40 / 1 Year membership in the *Genealogical Speakers Guild*.
  - 2 Year Membership - \$80 / 2 Years membership in the *Genealogical Speakers Guild*.
  - 1 Year Family Membership - \$45 / 1 Year
  - 2 Year Family Membership - \$90 / 2 Years

## *Speak!* Policies

*Speak!*, the quarterly newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, is published in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of articles and other material for the newsletter is the 15th of the prior month (15 February, 15 May, 15 August, and 15 November).

As stated in Article II of the Bylaws of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (as amended and restated May 2004), the objectives of GSG shall be

1. To provide a unified, effective voice to promote speakers' interests by providing a forum for the discussion of topics of concern to genealogical speakers;
2. To broaden the speaker base by identifying, educating, and assisting promising speakers;
3. To raise professional lecture standards; and
4. To aid speakers in understanding and fulfilling their obligations to program planners and to audiences.

**Guidelines for Submitting Feature Articles** Prior to submitting a feature article, authors are requested to review the newsletter guidelines outlined in this document (*Speak!* Policies) and submit article topic to *Speak!* editor, Lauren Maehrlein ([editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org](mailto:editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org)), for approval. Unsolicited articles will be returned to the author along with a copy of *Speak!* Policies.

- Articles must address a topic directly related to genealogical speaking.
- Articles should be no more than 2,000 words.
- Book reviews should be no more than 750 words.
- The editor retains the right of acceptance of all articles, news, and announcements.
- The editor retains the right to edit articles for accuracy, clarity, and length. Articles will be edited to conform to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Authors retain their copyright.
- First-time submissions should be accompanied by a short (75 words or fewer) bio of the author and a photo. Both will be printed with the article when published.
- Not all articles submitted may be accepted for publication.
- Articles may not be published in the order in which they are received. The editor will balance content and topics throughout the year.
- Articles by non-members will be considered when space permits.

*These guidelines do not apply to member news, calls for papers, or other notices and/or announcements submitted by GSG members. Adopted November 2010; updated January 2015.*

### **GSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Larry Thomas, 2026

Vice President: Michele Doyle, 2025

Treasurer: David McCorkle, 2026

Secretary: Laura Hedgecock, 2025

Director: Sheila Benedict, 2025

Director: Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew,  
M.Ed., PLCGS, 2026

*Speak!* Editor: Lauren Maehrlein, MA  
Tami Mize, proofreader

Editor Emeritus: Phyllis Matthews  
Ziller, MLIS

Webmaster: Mark Beasley

Roots-L Mailing List Moderator:  
Jeannette Pieczynski

GSG Facebook Page Administrator:  
Eric Basir

National Conference Coordinators:  
Vacant