

MICHAEL S. RAMAGE, J.D., CERTIFIED GENEALOGIST®

720 Argyle Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
<https://www.ForensicGenealogist.Pro>

Cell: 484-437-8827

mramage@forensicgenealogist.pro

PROFILE

Professional genealogist specializing in forensic genealogy including missing and unknown heir research, consulting and expert testimony. Frequent speaker and published writer. Active board member. Court-qualified expert witness in the field of forensic genealogy since 2003.

CREDENTIALS

- Certified Genealogist (2002-2005 as CGRS, 2005-2007, 2007-2012, 2012-2017, 2017-2022)
- Pennsylvania Bar (1975 – present), Pennsylvania Attorney I.D. # 22396

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania Bar Association **8 August 2019**
"Forensic Genealogy for Death & Dirt Lawyers" for the PBA Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section

Boston University Metropolitan College, Boston, MA **2011 – 2017**
Center for Professional Education.
Instructor in the course, OGEN200 Online Genealogical Research, Professional Genealogy module. Instruction includes course preparation, supervising facilitators, teaching, and grading.

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA **2016, 2018 - 2020**
Instructor, Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy for the 21st Century

Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, San Antonio, TX **2012 – 2016**
Instructor, Forensic Genealogy Institute
Helped develop the curricula for all annual and semi-annual institutes. Prepared course materials and taught multiple seminar-style courses geared for professional genealogists including contracts, business organizations, marketing, adoption, expert witnesses, evidence, genealogy standards, missing and unknown heirs law and procedure, and professional genealogist practicums.

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference **2015 – 2017**
Prepared course materials and presented the following live talks: Forensic Genealogy Meets the Genealogical Proof Standards (2015), Adoption Research and Real-Life Case Study (2015, Board for Certification of Genealogists Certification Seminar (2015-2017), Copyright Law for Genealogists (2016).

Association of Professional Genealogists Webinar: "Careers in Genealogy: Forensic Genealogy" (19 May 2014);
Board for Certification of Genealogists Webinar: "Reliability: The Keystone of Genealogical Reasoning, With Judicial Comparisons" (15 December 2015); **Board for Certification of Genealogists** 2015 Lecture Series, Salt Lake City, UT: "Forensic Genealogy Meets the Genealogical Proof Standard;" and many other genealogical presentations at local genealogical societies.

Additional experience: Past certifying genealogist for The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. In 2020, I co-taught a week-long course, "Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy," at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy's Academy.

EDUCATION

- **Stetson University College of Law**, Juris Doctorate, 1975.
- **Susquehanna University**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, 1972.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Self-Authenticating Evidence: Rules You Need to Know,” *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, Volume XXXIV, No. 4 (December 2019): 11.
- “Forensic Specialization” and “Ethical Considerations” chapters in *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018).
- “Data Privacy: The New Genealogical Frontier?” *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, Volume XXXIII, No. 4 (December 2018): 9.
- “Standards and Forensic Genealogy,” *OnBoard* 22 (September 2016): 1.
- Forensic Genealogy column author for *FORUM* online magazine, Federation of Genealogical Societies (2016).
- “What Lawyers Need to Know about the Heir-Hunting Industry,” *The Pennsylvania Lawyer* (May/June 2013): 43.
- “Missing and Unknown Estate Heir Law Practice and Procedure,” *Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly*, Volume LXXVI, No. 3 (July 2005): 125.
- 2013-2014: Member of the Standards Manual Revision Committee that resulted in the publication of Board for Certification of Genealogists®, *Genealogy Standards* (Nashville, TN: Ancestry, 2014).
- “Use of Form G-639 to Obtain USCIS Alien Files,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 3 (CAFG: August 2013): 8.
- “A Practical Approach to Genealogy Standards,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 4 (CAFG: March/April 2014): 5.
- “The Importance of Dispassionate Data Collection,” *OnBoard* 19 (BCG: January 2013): 5.
- “Heir-Hunting Firm’s Attorney Receives Public Reprimand,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 2 (CAFG: December 2012): 4.
- “The Challenges and Rewards of Reviewing International Heir Finders’ Proofs of Heirship,” *Forensic Genealogy News* 2 (February 2012), 2.

BOARD MEMBER

- **Association of Professional Genealogists, Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group**, President (2020 – present).
- **Board for Certification of Genealogists**, Member-at-Large, Vice President, Treasurer (2010 – 2016; General Counsel, October 2016 - present).
- **Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogists**, Vice President, Counsel (2012-2014).
- **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania**, Board of Directors, Counsel (2002 – 2006).

COURT APPEARANCES – QUALIFIED AS EXPERT WITNESS

- *Estate of Earl Wallace, Deceased*, O.C. No. 1327 DE of 1994, 2004 Phila. Ct. Com. Pl. LEXIS 134 (Phila. CCP, O.C. Div. 2004) (December 2003 expert testimony before Hon. John W. Herron); decision available at The Philadelphia Courts, First Judicial District of Philadelphia (<http://www.courts.phila.gov/pdf/opinions/orphans/199701327DE.pdf> : last accessed 3 August 2012).
- *Estate of Beatrice B. Peters, Deceased*, O.C. No. 3314 DE of 1984, 2004 Phila. Ct. Com. Pl. LEXIS 135 (Phila. CCP, O.C. Div. 2004) (May 2004 expert testimony before Hon. John W. Herron); decision available at The Philadelphia Courts, First Judicial District of Philadelphia (<http://www.courts.phila.gov/pdf/opinions/orphans/198403314de.pdf> : last accessed 3 August 2012).
- *James B. Nutter & Company vs. George Bailey et al*, Phila. Co. (Penna.) No. 120503141 (Phila. CCP, Civil. Div. 2012) (15 July 2013 expert testimony before Hon. Idee Fox); quiet title action re heirs of deceased realty owner.
- *Estate of Borisse Paulin, Deceased*, No. 2012-4474/A (Surrogate’s Court, NY, NY) (10 September 2015 and 11 May 2016 kinship hearings).
- *Estate of Richard Bjork, Deceased*, No. 2016-3227 (Surrogate’s Court, Kings Co., NY) (22 March 2017).
- *TD BANK, N.A. v. Woodman et al*, CA No. 2:17-cv-00163-jaw (U.S. Dist. Ct., Maine) (3 January 2020 expert testimony before Hon. John A. Woodcock); partition action re heirs of deceased realty owner.