

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

- Remembering our Ancestors
- Trace your roots with DNA
- Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for finding your lost loved ones
- Cases That Made My Brain Hurt

Dr. Fraser Dunford

- Historical photographs and photographers
- Ontario Municipal Records
- Internet and Genealogy
- What's On at the OGS

John Pihach

- Researching in Archives / Cadastral and other Maps in Galician Research
- Economic and other Records for Galician Research

Brenda MacDougall PhD

- Tracing the Historical Métis: Families, Geography, Mobility

Marilyn Lappi

- Loyalists in the Development of Canada
- Loyalist Descendents in Western Canada
- Proof of Descent from a Loyalist

Bonnie Wagner

- Go West Young Man: Understanding Saskatchewan Homestead Records

Denyse Smith

- Genealogy of New France and Québec

Special Topic:

- Saskatoon's Unsolved Mystery: The Woman In The Well

About our Speakers:

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak is a genealogical adventurer who loves solving mysteries, making unexpected discoveries and pushing the boundaries of conventional genealogy. Since 1999, she's worn many hats in the family history world, including Chief Family Historian and spokesperson for Ancestry.com, the largest genealogical company in the world, creator of RootsTelevision.com, a pioneering online channel of free videos and winner of four Telly Awards, and founder of UnclaimedPersons.org, a volunteer group that assists coroners and medical examiners.

Her most recent book is *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*, companion guide to the NBC series.

Megan's "greatest hits" include the following:

- Discovering Michelle Obama's roots, as featured on the front page of *The New York Times*
- Correcting history by revealing the true story of Annie Moore, the first immigrant through Ellis Island, a story featured on the front page of *The New York Times*
- Tracing Barack Obama's roots to Moneygall, Co. Offaly, Ireland
- Providing a decade of forensic consulting services to the U.S. Army to locate thousands of family members of soldiers still unaccounted for from WWI, WWII, Korea and Southeast Asia
- Figuring out who would be king of America today if George Washington had been king instead of president
- Using her sleuthing skills to help coroners and medical examiners locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons and establishing a group of volunteers to tackle this quiet epidemic
- Supporting more than 100 genealogical initiatives through her Honoring Our Ancestors Grants Program
- Playing detective to return dozens of orphaned heirlooms to their families of origin

Megan was one of the first to champion the use of DNA testing as a means to explore one's heritage, and co-authored the book, *Trace Your Roots with DNA*.

Dr Fraser Dunford

Fraser grew up near Peterborough, Ontario, the fifth generation of his family to do so.

He graduated in electrical engineering from Queen's in 1967. He was an Athlone Fellow, obtaining a MSc in operational research in 1968 from City University, London, England. He got a multi-disciplinary PhD from Queen's in 1975.

He taught full-time at Nova Scotia Technical College, the University of Manitoba, and Acadia University, and part-time at Queen's and Toronto. He taught university teaching at the Teaching Service of the University of Manitoba. For 8 years he was the Director of the School of Business at Acadia.

He spent part of his career in business, as Senior Management Science Specialist at Imperial Oil, and as Vice-President and part owner of a consulting firm.

He is a Past President of the Canadian Operational Research Society, was on its Board for 15 years, and edited its newsletter for 11 years. He was on the Board of the National Research Council for 3 years. He was one of the founders of the Nova Scotia section of the American Society for Quality.

He has been involved in genealogy for about 30 years, has written four books and many articles, and has often been on radio. He is the webmaster for the site *FindingPhotographers*, coordinates the Dunford mailing list, and is settler sheet co-ordinator for Kawartha Branch, OGS. He has the Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies (Canadian and English specialties) from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

He edited *NewsLeaf* (the OGS newsletter) for seven years, was on the OGS Board for two years, and has been Executive Director for over 4 years.

Books published:

- *Places of Worship in Peterborough County*, published by Kawartha Branch in 2004
- *Municipal Records in Ontario*, published by OGS in May 2005
- *A Beginners' Guide to Genealogy*, published by OGS in March 2006
- *A Beginners' Guide to Ontario Genealogy*, published by OGS in the fall of 2006

John D. Pihach

John D. Pihach was born in Yorkton.

He received a BSc degree from the University of British Columbia and also studied studio fine arts at the Vancouver Community College.

In his youth, he spent many years wandering about Asia and Europe and has made a dozen trips to Eastern Europe.

He has conducted genealogical research at the archives in Ukraine, Poland and Vienna.

He was the library chairperson for the East European Genealogical Society for eight years. John is the author of eleven articles on East European genealogical subjects and author of the book, *Ukrainian Genealogy*

Brenda MacDougall PhD

Brenda joined Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999 and has worked with Métis communities documenting their history while exploring aspects of Métis indigenous knowledge related to family. Brenda has been engaged with various research projects, a collaborative project with Drs. N. St-Onge, C. Podruchny and H. Devine. She is completing her research on Métis communities on the border with the United States looking at how the International Border has impacted the ability of Métis communities to define themselves as well as pursuing a project detailing early twentieth century Aboriginal political and cultural movements in western Canada. Her first book, *One of the Family: Métis Culture in Nineteenth-Century Northwestern Saskatchewan* (2010), was released by the University of British Columbia and explores the history of Métis communities in northwestern Saskatchewan within a system of family relationships and as rooted in a particular place. As a part of that work, she is collaborating with researchers from the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan as well as the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council to produce an atlas of the Métis experience in northwestern Saskatchewan. Appointed the Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa in January 2010, she will now be engaging in Ontario-based Métis historical and community research.

Marilyn Lappi

Marilyn Lappi has had a life-long interest in family history beginning when her grandparents told her stories about "the olden days". She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan and spent much of her career in the U of S library system. She currently lives in Edmonton and is a member of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society where she is a library volunteer. She recently retired after eight years as the Genealogist for the Edmonton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada.

Denyse Smith

Denyse is Past President of the AGS Branch in Lethbridge, AB. She has worked at the Family History Centres in Calgary, Lethbridge, and Raymond, AB. She was Director of the Family History Centre in Saskatoon. Denyse has done extensive research in Québec, including her doctoral thesis, for her Ph.D. in History.

Bonnie Wagner

Bonnie Wagner received a Master's degree in History from the University of Saskatchewan and her area of specialization is Saskatchewan history. She has been a Reference Archivist in the Saskatoon office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board since 2007.

Symposium website: www.sbsgs.org

Consult the website for schedule updates, registration forms and accommodation information.

Display, sponsorship and tax-deductible donation opportunities are available.

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