



## In This Issue ...

Introducing the Course Catalog ..... 1

Copper Leaf Genealogy: an Interview with Nichelle Barra ..... 2

BYU Webinar: Training with The Family History Guide ..... 4

On the Horizon..... 4

## Introducing the Course Catalog

The new Course Catalog for The Family History Guide is here! You can find it at [http://www.thefhguide.com/course\\_catalog.html](http://www.thefhguide.com/course_catalog.html) or by clicking the Course Catalog link on the main Training page.

The Course Catalog is a list of sample courses that can be taught from The Family History Guide, using selected Goals and Choices. There are full-length classes



**Course Catalog**  
Select Family History Guide training courses.

(60 minutes each) and mini-classes (15, 20, or 30 minutes each). There are also tips for instructor preparation and suggestions for custom classes.

Here is a look at one of the sections in the Course Catalog. (The sections are organized by Project.) Following a brief description of the Project, you'll see a list of Goals used in the full-length class, including the links to get to them in The Family History Guide.



### Descendancy / LDS Classes – Projects 3A, 3B

**Descendancy Research** - Learn how to trace descendants of your ancestors from several generations back. Get familiar with useful tools that help you visualize your descendant family lines, as well as finding your relationships to famous figures in history.

Goals in this class: [1: Identifying Descendant Lines](#); [2: Using Descendancy Sourcing Tools](#); [3: Using Puzzilla.org](#); [4: Using Relative Finder](#)

#### Mini-Classes

[Identifying Descendant Lines](#) - Goal 1 - 20:00

[Using Puzzilla.org](#) - Goal 3 - 30:00

[Using Relative Finder](#) - Goal 4 - 15:00

Also included for most Projects are mini-classes (shown at the bottom of the example below). These mini-classes can provide helpful training for those looking to learn about specific topics in shorter amounts of time. Each mini-class will typically focus on one or two Goals.

Currently there are 21 full-length classes and 51 mini-classes, with plans to add more in the future.



## Instructor Prep

One of the great things about teaching with The Family History Guide is that you don't have to build your course content from scratch - it's already there for you in the Goals and Choices.

As you prepare to teach a full-length or mini-class, follow these suggestions for best results:

1. Read through the Goals, Choices, and Steps for the class.
2. Decide if there are any Choices that you will skip for your class.
3. Read the articles and watch the videos included in the Choices. Decide on which of these you will skip and which you will emphasize in the class. (Generally avoid showing an entire video in class, unless it is very brief.)
4. Take notes on the articles or videos you like so you can share this info in the class.
5. Estimate the amount of time you want to spend on each Choice, allowing for Q&A and any hands-on practice you'd like to do.

## Custom Classes

Don't see a course that exactly fits your needs? Simple - you can create a custom class by combining mini-classes or any Choices in The Family History Guide to get just what you want.

For example, you could create a full-length custom class in U.S. Research by combining these mini-classes: City Directories and Timelines (30:00), Introduction to State Research (15:00), and Exploring Archives and Libraries (20:00). This custom class would provide a nice focus on how to zero in on geography-specific research.

Enjoy the Course Catalog from The Family History Guide - best wishes for your training success, and let us know what you think!



## Copper Leaf Genealogy: Interview with Nichelle Barra

*Editor's Note: Here's our second spotlight on popular family history blog and web sites. Nichelle Barra shares her genealogy insights with The Family History Guide Explorer in this issue.*

*TFHG: What sparked your original interest in genealogy?*

*Nichelle: I suppose you can say my interest was sparked when I was very young, listening to stories about my family from my grandmother. I've always had a love of history, specifically about the normal people that the history books largely ignore. But what made me actually begin researching is a bit different.*



In about 2002, I was visiting a cemetery with a friend for some ancestors my grandfather said were buried there. While looking for them, I came across a gravestone for a Mary Witherell Hay Owen. My grandmother, Mary Witherell, had died about a year before, so this name made me stop in my tracks. Who was this woman, and why did she have my surname? I began to research her and the rest of my family to see if there was a connection. There wasn't a direct connection to my family, by the way, but I was hooked.

*TFHG: How did Copper Leaf genealogy get started, and why "Copper Leaf"?*

*Nichelle: In 2013, I left teaching to pursue another career. I had played with the idea of going back to school but the expenses scared me off. When looking at a variety of different historical careers, I came across several professional genealogy websites. I wanted to know more and bought the book *Professional Genealogy* by Elizabeth Shown Mills and began reading. It went off from there. I read a lot, took the*





National Genealogical Society (NGS) Home Study Course (now called American Genealogical Studies), and went to my first ever NGS Conference. I had also signed up for the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate course at this time.

At the NGS Conference, I met many people who had taken the course, and some of them gave me their cards in case I had any questions or needed some extra feedback. It was also there that I happened across a vendor who sold necklaces that look like trees. They were beautiful! She also sold these beautiful necklaces with a single copper leaf, which I bought. Later, when thinking about a name for my business, my husband looked at my necklace and then back at me - that was all I needed.

*TFHG: Tell us about Friday Finds.*

Friday Finds is my most consistent post on my blog site.

Every Friday I post links to several genealogy articles, blog posts, webinars, methodologies, new resources, and updated resources that I feel other genealogists, from beginners to professionals, could benefit from reading them.



In June, my husband and I recently moved from our home in Indiana to resettle out west. It took a few months, but we are finally now in Colorado and I will now have other blog posts.

*TFHG: Which genealogists or sites have been the main influence on how you approach family history?*

*Nichelle:* My biggest influence has been Deborah Sweeney, who blogs at the [Genealogy Lady site](#). I found her blog early on and messaged her for advice. Since then, I have considered her to be one of my mentors. In the very beginning, I asked her for advice on starting a blog, courses she recommends for becoming a professional genealogist, and paths to certification. She has been an incredible friend and mentor to me these past few years!

Harold Henderson has also been a huge help to me. He lived near where I did, so I sought him out

specifically to see what the demographics for our area were like. He's been a great person to ask for advice since then. I've also been mentored by [Claudia Breland](#) online and have been able to meet her in person, which was awesome.

Besides those personal interactions, I am influenced by how I do my genealogy by many of the experts like Elizabeth Shown Mills, Judy G. Russell, Elissa Powell, and Tom Jones, to name a few. I also make sure to read genealogical journals like New England Historic Genealogical Society's Register and the [NGS Quarterly](#) as well as follow blogs like [Springboard](#), which is created by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG).



*TFHG: When did you decide to become a professional genealogist, and what have been the challenges and the rewards?*

*Nichelle:* I decided in 2013 to become a professional genealogist. I had no idea my favorite hobby could become a career!

Some of the biggest rewards have been the education. I knew before I could start my business that there was quite a bit for me to learn, so I took a year to study, full-time, to become a professional genealogist. I had several mentors (like Deborah Sweeney) and many books (like *Professional Genealogy*) that helped me figure out where the holes were in my genealogy education and how to fill them before taking on clients. That year may have been filled with education, but I really haven't stopped! I love learning more and more about genealogy - especially about how to use DNA in your research.

Some of the biggest challenges for me have been the behind-the-scenes part of building a business. I was an English and history major in school, and I have no business background whatsoever! On the advice of the book *Professional Genealogy*, I sought out [SCORE](#), which is a group of past or current small business owners who give advice to other small business owners. That help has been priceless!



With the help from SCORE and, again, lots of reading, I started my business in September 2014. However, I am still learning about the business side of things, as there is always room for improvement.

There is also a study group called ProGen, which studies the book *Professional Genealogy* and is mentored by those who have become certified by the BCG. That group also covers several business items - like marketing, expenses, business plans, etc. I was able to show my peers in the group what I had developed and could get their critique on how to improve. Their help has been immeasurable!

With that background, moving to Colorado and beginning to start up my business here has been much easier. I quickly got in contact with SCORE and the local Small Business Association, and I did more reading on the city and state websites for the requirements of a small, at-home business. The paperwork has been filed and I am ready to begin my new genealogy adventure in Colorado!

*Editor's note: Be sure to check out the free Resources Toolbox on Nichelle's site:*

<http://www.copperleafgenealogy.com/blog/research-toolbox/>



## BYU Webinar: Training with The Family History Guide

Don't miss this opportunity for an in-depth tour of the training materials in The Family History Guide!

On Wed. Sept. 13 at 6:00 p.m., Bob Taylor will conduct a free webinar on Training with The Family History Guide. He will walk through the key training materials and concepts on the website, including the

new Course Catalog, as well as sharing tips for effective family history training.

For more information and signup, [click here](#). The webinar will be posted later on the BYU Webinars site and on YouTube. Here are the previous webinars hosted by BYU for The Family History Guide:

- [Intro to The Family History Guide, Part 1](#)
- [Intro to The Family History Guide, Part 2](#)
- [Navigating The Family History Guide](#)

## On the Horizon

We will be at all Family History Fairs listed below. For details, see the Events link on the website for details ([www.thefhguide.com/events.html](http://www.thefhguide.com/events.html)).

**Grandview South Stake Family History Fair** - is on August 27 in Orem, UT.

**Holladay Stake Training** - Sept. 6 in Holladay, UT.

**BYU Webinar: Training with The Family History Guide** - is on Wed. Sept. 13.

**Ogden FamilySearch Library 2016 Conference** - is on Sept. 10 in Ogden, UT.

**Pavahnt Valley Family History Conference** - is on Oct. 15 in Delta UT.

**Pikes Peak Family History Conference** - is on Nov. 5 in Colorado Springs, CO.



To subscribe: [subscribe@thefhguide.com](mailto:subscribe@thefhguide.com)

To unsubscribe: [unsubscribe@thefhguide.com](mailto:unsubscribe@thefhguide.com)