History 439-001
Professional Family History Research/Fall 2012
283 MCKB, Thurs., 1:35-3:50pm
Instructor Gerald Haslam, 2107 JFSB; email: haslam1@aol.com
Consultations by appointment

History 439 is geared to help students become polished, professional genealogists and accomplished writers of research reports to clients; and to focus on research methodologies, note-keeping, source citation, arrangement of research files, professional business practices/accounting; and strategies for keeping current in the field of family history.

Join the Association of Professional Genealogists/APG for $35/year; email editor@apgen.org.

Join the Utah Genealogical Assoc. (UGA) which publishes CROSSROADS; www.infouga.org.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Gerald M. Haslam, comp., “Research Report”;


PROJECTS:

You’ll work through four assignments, in two- and/or three-week increments, where the bulk of the research must be done at the Family Search Library/FSL in Salt Lake City. All projects require a report 10-12 pp., double-spaced; pedigree; documented family group on PAF 5.2 or similar program; research logs/and timecard; and extracts tied to the log. You are required to put in a minimum of nine hours a week on these projects.

PLEASE DO NOT use staples, clips, tabs, loose-leaf binders, page covers or folders; do not punch holes in your papers; but simply prepare a “small pile” of 8 ½ X 11” materials in the order outlined above and put that in an LARGE, unsealed manila envelope, and submit to me. Write as if you were the only researcher, even though you may work as a member of a team. Photocopies from books always include title pp., preface, introduction; and sometimes pertinent pp. from the index.

Each assignment will receive a letter grade. Please take advantage of the freeing up of intervening weeks, spending 9 hours a week or roughly 27 per assignment depending on how many weeks are allowed. In grading, I’ll look for logical conceptualization of the
research problem and understandable, well-reasoned analysis; neatness; inference from sources; thoroughness; and working knowledge of key methodologies.

In doing the assignments,

1) use online sources to scope out general contours of the problem, and get addresses of archives from which you may have to request materials either by email attachment or by post;

2) evaluate census and tax lists;

3) always use deeds and mortgages to establish residence and a time frame for such;

4) move horizontally through sources to gather clusters of family and flush out collaterals in probates and court recs./published materials;

5) treat church and court/chancery records as a BIG DEAL;

6) always determine if possible parentage of spouses and siblings of same, even though non-ancestral, important in naming patterns where heirs are named after both sides of the family;

7) pay LOTS of attention to military recs., esp. pensions;

8) always pinpoint cemeteries and find online or other lists of tombstone inscriptions;

9) pay attention to biographies in state and county histories, esp. late 1800s;

10) browse shelves in the FSL, esp. journals for the state and county of interest;

11) if you get on a roll with one particular family, stick with them until you’ve reamed out what’s easily available;

12) you cannot assume that a person marrying somebody is one and the same as a person by that/those names in birth/chr. recs., as you’ll again have to “horizontalize” out from the marriage to see if land recs., witnesses at marriages, deeds, probates, whatever, tie the married person(s) to siblings and/or parents.

GRADES:

Obviously attendance is extremely important, as class is where you’ll be taught key methodologies and writing techniques. In addition to the projects, there will be a final essay exam based on lectures and readings which will receive a letter grade and count equally with one of the assignments. The four projects and final exam (five total components) will be averaged to determine your final grade for the course.
CALENDAR:

8/30 Intro; assignment #1 issued

9/6 No class; researching assignment 1

9/13 No class; researching 1

9/20 Assignment 1 due AT MY OFFICE DOOR AT NOON, whereupon I’ll grade these and we’ll meet at 2pm, where I’ll return the assignments; report writing types/genealogical reports, incl. foundational/comparative; foundational in-depth; analytical; crossing pond; assignment 2 issued

9/27 No class; researching 2

10/4 No class; researching 2

10/11 Assignment 2 due at noon at my office, class at 2pm; source citation and documentation reviewed; linkages; assignment 3 issued;

10/18 No class; researching 3

10/25 No class; researching 3

11/1 Assignment 3 due at noon, class at 2pm; logs and notes review: for Scandinavia, Germany and Continental Europe generally, a log except for radial/probate searches not necessary due to “person specificity” of recs., although we arrange notes by life-course cycle followed by other notes in alpha order by rec. type; Britain, compile logs by surname and thereafter, extracts as above; for US, surname logs serves as index/calendar to numbered extracts attached; assignment 4 issued

11/8 No class; researching 4

11/15 No class; researching 4

11/22 No class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

11/29 *Assignment 4 due at noon, my office, class at 2pm; writing family histories (Dyer/Hills example)

12/10 **FINAL EXAM, Mon., 7-10am in the classroom; please bring a small BYU bluebook and dark-ink pen; finals and assignment 4 will be available for pickup in the History Dept. Office, 2130 JFSB, approximately a week after the exam.