

# About Our Genealogy 101 Speakers

**Dianne Bean Barfield** is a professional genealogist/educator, lecturer and writer; as well as past registrar for several lineage societies. She holds memberships in 17 professional genealogical, lineage and historical societies, including Association of Professional Genealogist, National Genealogical Society, and is a lifetime member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Presently she is the Educational Coordinator, Friends of the Georgia Room Coordinator, and Vice President for the Cobb County Genealogical Society.

Not only does she speak and teach on genealogical topics at regional conferences, local genealogical societies and venues; she also plans genealogical educational events.

Dianne is a native Georgian with roots in the state of Maine, with degrees from Mercer University and Florida State University.

**Bea Coker** was grew up in Daytona Beach, FL. She began researching the Coker family in the 1970's. In the early 1990's, she joined the Cobb County Genealogical Society and began researching again. Since 1997 she has been an officer or board member of the society.

She also belongs to National Genealogical Society, Georgia Genealogical Society, The New England Historic Genealogical Society, and DAR. Bea is currently working on papers for the Mayflower Society and Colonial Dames 17th Century.

Over the past 10 years she has attended numerous NGS, FGS, and GGS Conferences.

Historical note: Her 10th great-grandmother and her daughter were accused of and put on trial for witchcraft in Cambridge, Mass in 1640.

She graduated from Mercer University and attended FSU where she obtained her Master's degree in Inorganic Chemistry. She worked in research for Sydell Wooley Chemical Company and Cargill Chemical.

**Pamela Strother Downs** is a life-long resident of Cobb County. A graduate of the University of Georgia, she practiced law for Sears, Roebuck and Co. in their Southern Territorial Offices. Pam is a member of the Fielding Lewis Chapter of National Daughters of the American Revolution and is a DAR Genealogy Consultant. She was on the 2017 Steering Committee for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). Her article proving her Tatum family lineage to a Jamestown ancestor was published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 101, No. 4, December 2013.

**Emma Davis Hamilton** has more than 20 years experience as a genealogy researcher. She is past president of the Metro Atlanta chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society; Georgia Genealogical Society board member; Friends of the Georgia Archives Board member. Emma is a member of the National Genealogical Society, and the Florida Genealogical Society. She is an adjunct instructor for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Reaching African American tract at the University of Georgia. Emma has made presentations at National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies conferences; National Archives at Atlanta; Georgia Archives; Atlanta History Center; and Margaret Mitchell House, as well as numerous other ventures.

Emma is a retired Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army). She received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and a master's degree from Western Kentucky University.

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**Kristin Harms** is a full-time professional genealogist based out of Johns Creek, Georgia and owner of Relative Proof, LLC. She is a recent recipient of the Ancestry ProGenealogist Scholarship to the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) and is a scheduled speaker for NGS 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She is a member of Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), APG Georgia Chapter, National Genealogical Society, Georgia Genealogical Society (Publicity Director), New England Historic Genealogical Society, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS), Cobb County Genealogical Society (past newsletter editor), Daughters of the American Revolution, NGSQ Study Group, and volunteer for Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR) Georgia.

She earned her B.A. in East Asian Studies and Economics from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and spent a semester abroad immersed in Chinese Studies at Nanjing University in Nanjing, China.

**Karen Molohon** has over 35 years of genealogy research and teaching experience. Genealogy courses include: overview of genealogy, getting started, research organization, census records, geography, migration & mapping, and photography. She teaches the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) genealogy course at Kennesaw State University. Karen is a scheduled speaker for 2018 NGS conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Karen is active in the genealogical community serving as Webmaster of the Cobb County Genealogical Society and previously served as President and in other positions. She is currently the President of the Georgia Genealogical Society and has previously served in other positions for the organization. Karen is a member of Association for Professional Genealogists, Cobb County Genealogical Society, Georgia Genealogical Society, Illinois State Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

She has M.S. Education and M.S. in Technical Communication degrees and is a retired Lead Information Designer.

**Robert A. "Bob" Sapp** began his genealogical research in 1989 after retiring from Lockheed Martin. His initial venture into lineage societies began with application to Sons of the American Revolution in 1995. Since then he has identified fourteen Revolutionary War patriots.

Bob has attended sessions of Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research workshops at Samford University; as well as, completing an 18 month online ProGen study. Bob is a member of 12 genealogical and lineage societies, including Association of Professional Genealogists; Sons of the American Revolution [current Georgia Society Registrar]; Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge; Saint Andrews Society of Atlanta; Clan McIntire Association; and National Genealogical Society.

**Larry Thomas**, a retired US Army Captain with 23 years in Aviation, Transportation & Logistics, has a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, an FAA airplane mechanic license, an MBA in Management Information Systems, and a Project Management Professional Certification.

Larry began his Genealogy Research 30 years ago with his Thomas Family, Georgia residents since the 1750's, then expanding into his and his late wife's families. He began researching for clients in 2008. He is currently working on several projects including researching and writing on Cobb County's own Akers Mill as the brothers who ran the mill share a common ancestor with Larry's Mother.

Larry is a member of the National Genealogical Society, Association of Professional Genealogists, Georgia Genealogical Society, Gwinnett Genealogical Society, and Current President of the Cobb County Genealogical Society.