

Shannon Combs-Bennett  
Ph.D. Student History and Genealogy



## Education

Ph.D. Student, History, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland  
Thesis Topic: Genealogy and Lineage Societies in the United States  
MSc, Genealogical, Heraldic, and Paleographic Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland 2019  
Dissertation: How Valuable are Collections of Letters for Genealogical Research? A Case Study of the Mott Family Letters, 1835-1849  
BS, Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA 1999  
Concentration: Biology, genetics  
Research: Crystallography laboratory, advisor Dr. John Huffman  
Undergraduate Research Thesis: Crystallographic Software Development: Condensing the Myriad of Programs into one

## Certificates

- Qualified Genealogist (QG)  
Through the Register of Qualified Genealogists, United Kingdom  
Student member: 2017-2018  
Full member: 2018-present
- Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies (PLCGS)  
National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Toronto, Canada  
Certificate in American Records, completed Dec 2016
- Boston University, Certificate in Genealogical Studies  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Completed the 15-week graduate program (OL2013)

## Memberships

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Alpha Chi Sigma (Professional Chemistry Fraternity, past collegiate member, current professional member)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Association of Professional Genealogists
- British Association for American Studies
- International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (Southeast Regional Director 2016-2018)
- National Council on Public History
- Register for Qualified Genealogists

### GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society
- Fairfax Genealogical Society
- Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society (Conference Chairman 2012-2016)
- Guild of Genealogical Speakers
- Indiana Genealogical Society
- Mount Vernon Genealogical Society
- National Genealogical Society
- New England Historical and Genealogical Society
- NextGen Genealogical Network (founding member / Education Chair 2011-2016)
- North Carolina Genealogical Society
- Virginia Genealogical Society

## Book Publications

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| 2021 | Combs-Bennett, Shannon. (2021) Genealogy Basics In 30 Minutes. Second Edition. Boston, MA: i30 Media Corp.       |
| 2019 | Kirkpatrick, Brianne and Combs-Bennett, Shannon. (2019) The DNA Guide for Adoptees                               |
| 2016 | Combs-Bennett, Shannon. (2016) Genealogy Basics In 30 Minutes. Boston, MA: i30 Media Corp.                       |
| 2014 | Combs-Bennett, Shannon. (2014) A Genealogist's Guide to Richmond, Virginia. Utica, OH: The In-depth Genealogist. |

## Magazine Publications

Utah Genealogical Society Magazine, Crossroads, Volume 11, Number 4, Applying to Lineage Societies, Fall 2016  
 Going In-Depth Magazine, 2016  
 Secrets to Searching The U.S. National Archives Online (July 2016)  
 Why should I do this? Introduction to DNA Testing (April 2016)  
 Review of 2016 RootsTech (April 2016)  
 FGS Forum, Columnist, 2015 – 2020  
 Creating a great presentation (July 2020)  
 At home library (April 2020)  
 Generational differences in volunteer work (January 2020)  
 Knowing your worth (October 2019)  
 Imposter syndrome (July 2019)  
 Self promotion (April 2019)  
 Finding your niche (January 2019)  
 Just get to it: writing your (and your ancestor's) family history (October 2018)  
 Revamping your organization (July 2018)  
 Organization tools and calendars (April 2018)  
 Omeka platform (January 2018)  
 Scholarships available to genealogists (October 2017)  
 Creating scholarships with your group (April 2017)  
 Younger people in leadership roles (January 2017)  
 Why You Should Attend A Conference...Any Conference (October 2016)  
 Certificates Certifications and Degrees: they are all the same thing...right? (April 2016)  
 The Importance of Self Editing (January 2016)  
 Developing your leadership qualities (November 2015)  
 Keeping up with the ancestors: self-education and the genealogist (September 2015)  
 Networking (July 2015)  
 Who are the NextGen of Genealogy? (June 2015)  
 Going In-Depth Magazine: The Society Pages, 2012-2013  
 Pioneer and First Family Societies: for those of us who like to be first! (October 2014)  
 Celebrating Ancestors from Mr. Madison's War (August 2014)  
 Honoring the Founders of New England (July 2014)  
 California Societies (May 2014)  
 The Indian Princess and the English Gentleman: Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Marriage of John Rolfe and Pocahontas (April 2014)  
 Societies for Irish Descendants (March 2014)  
 Florida Pioneer Societies (February 2014)  
 Ancestors in Paradise (January 2014)  
 Getting You Pointed in the Right Direction (December 2013)  
 Male Descendants of Civil war Veterans (November 2013)  
 Civil war Societies for Female Descendants (October 2013)  
 Embracing your Revolutionary Past (September 2013)  
 Huguenot Societies (August 2013)  
 President and Declaration Societies (July 2013)  
 Learning from the Society of Friends (June 2013)  
 Royal Lineage (May 2013)  
 Law and Order Criminals (April 2013)  
 Children's lineage societies (March 2013)  
 Beginning the Process (February 2013)  
 Lineage Society: Beginning the process (December 2012)  
 Family Tree Magazine, 2012 – present  
 Hark! The Heraldry (Jan/Feb 2018)  
 Take 5 (DNA Testing Companies) (Oct/Nov 2018)  
 DNA Solutions (Oct/Nov 2017)  
 Tutorial: Analyze Your DNA with GEDMatch (Jul/Aug 2015)  
 Tutorial: AncestryDNA Shared Matches (Jan/Feb 2016)  
 10 Ways to Connect With Distant Cousins (May/Jun 2015)  
 Workbook: Obituaries (Jan/Feb 2015)  
 Testing the DNA Waters (Dec 2012)  
 5 Questions With Shannon Combs-Bennett (April 2012)

## Blog Publications

Trials and Tribulations of a Self Taught Family Historian, Nov 2011- PresentoPersonal blog chronicling my beginning journey in Family History research and beyond.

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, 2014 – 2016  
Created a series of blog posts based on the courses I was taking to earn my Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies through the institute  
90 blog posts covering the courses for the American Certificate plus, English occupations, Folklore, Heraldry, lecturing, writing, and social history.

Going In-Depth, 2012 – 2014  
A Source is a Source, of Course, of Course...or is it? (October 2014)  
Book Review: Finding Family (October 2014)  
Book Review: The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide (October 2014)  
Book Review: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (October 2014)  
Book Review: The Juggler's Children (October 2014)  
Book Review: Mind Maps for Genealogy (October 2014)  
Book Review: Stephen King on Writing A Memoir of the Craft (October 2014)  
Book Review: A Beginning Guide of WWII Research by Jennifer Holik (August 2014)  
Book Review: Lost but not Forgotten, Stories of the Lost Chronicles the Stories of Fallen Soldiers by Jennifer Holik (May 2014)  
StoryCatcher Review (May 2014)  
Tech Review: Saving Memories Forever (March 2014)  
Review: BU Certification Program (March 2014)  
Review of Vertex42.com (January 2014)  
Zap the Grandmas Gap Workbooks General Overview (January 2014)  
Zap the Grandmas Gap Workbooks Civil War Workbook (November 2013)  
Data Analysis and Crowd Sourcing Genealogy Style (November 2013)  
Research Possibilities at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library (October 2013)  
Genealogy Resources at the Library of Virginia (October 2013)  
A workbook of family fun: Zap the Grandma Gap by Jante Havorka (October 2013)  
Do you Make Use of MakeUseOf.com? (October 2013)  
Social Media and Genealogy: It's Not Just About Chats With Friends Anymore (October 2013)  
FGS from the eyes of a first time attendee (September 2013)  
Review of Aboutone.com (May 2013)  
Tech Blog Review: Genius Scan (May 2013)  
Research in 140 characters or less: Twitter for genealogists (April 2013)  
Got a growing pile of business cards? Use world cat mobile! (April 2013)  
Tech Blog Review: Genius Scan (March 2013)  
Review of World Card Mobile (March 2013)  
Zap the Grandma Gap: Connect with your family by connecting them to their family history by Janet Hovorka (February 2013)  
Craving the pen and paper: handwriting and you iPad (February 2013)  
Review of the new Evidentia software (January 2013)  
Craving the pen and paper: handwriting and your iPad (December 2012)  
Verifying work through the genealogical proof standard just got easier: Review of the new Evidentia Software. (December 2012)  
National Genealogical Society, Guest Blog, 2013-2014  
Group Collaboration: Are you taking advantage of this important genealogical research tool? (December 2014)  
Tips for more effective studying: All genealogists do study! (March 2014)  
Post it notes as a great research tool for genealogists (March 2014)  
Kids in the Courthouse (March 2014)  
Reading the book is just the beginning – Do you know how you learn best? Using Mastering Genealogical Proof as an example (November 2013)  
Family Tree Magazine, Family Tree Firsts Blogger, Dec 2011-Dec 2012  
Shedding the beginner's cocoon goodbye to a genealogy butterfly (December 2012)  
Coming to terms with slave owning ancestors (December 2012)  
The cemetery a genealogy sanctuary (November 2012)  
Giving thanks for genealogy (November 2012)  
Chasing cousins in ancestry.com dna tests (November 2012)  
Reflecting on a year of family tree firsts (November 2012)  
Local routes to nearby roots (October 2012)  
Infant mortality past and present (October 2012)  
Heritage in heraldry rooting for a royal line (October 2012)  
Civil war roots and a historic birthday (October 2012)  
Genealogy overload finding time to find your family (September 2012)  
Family research therapy the pure pleasure of a genealogy group (September 2012)  
Bust a brick wall with a phone call (September 2012)

Living in lineage society limbo (September (2012))  
Why I wore pajamas to a genealogy conference (August 2012)  
Photos for posterity and wedding picture envy (August (2012))  
Hidden history in 1940 census indexes (August (2012))  
Collateral lines to trace or not to trace (August 2012)  
Why genealogy is the best medicine (July 2012)  
Magical moments with military pension files (July 2012)  
Beauty of a breakthrough marching down a maternal line (July (2012))  
One family double enumeration a tale of two Georges (July 2012)  
Genealogy in Jamestown living our family history (June 2012)  
Standing at the edge of the big genealogy pool (June 2012)  
Adventures in genealogy dna testing part 3 the results (June (2012))  
Adventures in genealogy dna testing part-2 (June 2012)  
Adventures in genealogy dna testing part 1 (May 2012)  
A tale of two revolutionary war ancestors (May 2012)  
A letter to a long lost friend pays off (May 2012)  
Feeding a child's interest in history (May (2012))  
The value of old fashioned letters (May 2012)  
The power of cousins (April (2012))  
What happened to the boy who shot his brother (April 2012)  
Time travel with dad (April 2012)  
A pension file reveals a family tragedy (April 2012)  
Indiana genealogy ancestors (March 2012)  
Mrs. Bennett goes to Washington and squeals in the middle of the national archives (March 2012)  
Were these immigrant ancestors beamed down (March 2012)  
A family story delivers a knockout punch (March 2012)  
Genealogy studies lead to research breakthroughs (March 2012)  
Jump starting my civil war research (February 2012)  
Did I marry a relative of Buffalo Bill Cody (February 2012)  
My mother and the haunted tombstone (February 2012)  
My mother and the haunted tombstone (February 2012)  
The cast iron monument (January 2012)  
Breaking down a brick wall with just one letter (January 2012)  
Family tree firsts (January 2012)  
From Arvin to Cannon (January 2012)  
Will dna testing confirm grandma's story (January 2012)  
Getting relatives interested in family history (January 2012)  
Powering through (January 2012)  
A perpetual student (December 2011)  
Where do Hoosiers come from (December 2011)

## Other Publications

Going In-Depth, In-Briefs (quick sheets for research), 2015-2016  
Little Known Sources for Virginia Research (2017)  
Maryland Genealogy (2016)  
Virginia Genealogy (2016)  
Washington, D.C. (2016)  
Intro to DNA Research (2015)  
Family Tree Magazine, 2013 – present  
Publications on website with no dates – reprints of articles or prior blog posts.  
5 Essential Elements of a Genealogy Source Citation  
Case Study: Using the Census to Confirm a Correct Identity  
Can You Give a DNA Test as a Gift? 3 Questions to Consider  
DNA and the Dead: The Ethics of Testing the Deceased  
DNA Test Reviews: AncestryDNA, MyHeritage DNA, and More  
How to Get Started With Genetic Genealogy and DNA Research  
How to Use AncestryDNA Shared Matches  
GEDMatch: How to Use This Valuable DNA Tool  
Quick Guide to Genealogy Social Networking Websites  
A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Using Historical Obituaries

## Awards

2017 Benjamin Franklin Silver Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association for Genealogy Basics In 30 Minutes.  
Elected 25 April 2024 a Fellow in the Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (FSAScot)

## **Lectures and Presentations**

For a full listing please see

<http://tntfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/p/presentations-and-speaking-topics.html>