



# Finding Your Roots: Genealogy Workshop

## Panelist Bios



### Alexa Klimas Corcoran

After 20+ years as an entrepreneur and consultant, Alexa merged her academic background in history and a passion for family research to launch a professional career in genealogy. Her special interests are mid-Atlantic research, Civil War and federal records, and Irish genealogy. Alexa's expertise also includes genetic genealogy, working to analyze DNA results, offering lectures and online coaching, and hosting monthly webinars. Along with active participation in peer groups and societies supporting aspiring and professional genealogists, Alexa has completed advanced coursework at the major genealogical institutes across the country. She has served as a board member of the MGS since 2018.



### David Powell

David Powell was born in Baltimore City and has been researching his own family history for over 25 years. He is the current President of the Baltimore County Genealogical Society and was previously the Treasurer of that organization. He is also a member of the MGS and a member of its Board of Directors. Dave teaches genealogy courses at the Community College of Baltimore County and at local senior centers, libraries, and genealogy societies. He has given numerous talks on genealogy, DNA, and foreign research to various groups throughout Maryland. He has done extensive research in France, Scotland, Wales, England, Canada, Poland and the United States.



### John Siemon

John Siemon is a past President of the MGS and has been on its Executive Board since 2008. He is currently coordinating a marriage indexing project for the society. John has been researching his own family history since 1997. His special interests are maps, the Civil War, and Baltimore history and genealogy. All of his family lines have been in Baltimore since 1865, and he has collected many references for researching Baltimore genealogy. He has written several articles for The MGS Journal and regularly provides assistance to queries in social media genealogy groups.



### Robyn Smith

Robyn has been researching her family and others for over 20 years. She specializes in Maryland, African American, Slavery and Court Records research. Robyn taught an Advanced African American Genealogy class at Howard Community College and has also taught at the MGS, the Maryland State Archives, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. She has lectured widely, including at Family History Center conferences and national conferences such as AAHGS and the International Black Genealogy Summit. Robyn is the author of numerous published genealogy articles, has written a genealogy teaching blog called Reclaiming Kin for ten years, and published the book version of her blog, The Best of Reclaiming Kin.