

## Speakers' Biographical Information

**Kandie Adkinson**, administrative supervisor, Land Office Division, Kentucky Secretary of State's Office, is a native of Mercer County, Ky. Adkinson was employed by the Kentucky Historical Society for more than six years, researching, laminating and microfilming Kentucky Land Grant Records. In July 1984, Adkinson accepted employment with the Secretary of State's Land Office. Her primary duties consist of researching and copying land records; she is also involved in the development of the Web site.

**June G. Alexander**, who was on the faculty of the Russian and East European Studies Program at the University of Cincinnati, has now retired. She is the author of *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1870–1920* (2007, rev. ed. 2009); *Ethnic Pride, American Patriotism: Slovaks and Other New Immigrants in the Interwar Era* (2004); and *The Immigrant Church and Community: Pittsburgh's Slovak Catholics and Lutherans, 1880–1915* (1987). Author of more than a dozen scholarly articles on the migration process and immigrant experience, her publications include numerous professional reviews and entries for scholarly volumes. Since receiving her doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1980, Alexander has held executive positions in several professional organizations, most notably the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Until her retirement in 2009, she was on the editorial board of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

**M. Teresa Baer**, managing editor of IHS Press Family History Publications, edits *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections* and books on migration and ethnic history. With a master's degree in comparative history (Indiana University), Baer has written articles and book chapters on numerous historical and genealogical topics and compiled and edited the multi-award winning book, *Finding Indiana Ancestors: A Guide to Historical Research* (2007).

**James M. Bergquist** is an emeritus professor of history at Villanova University. He received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Notre Dame and his master's degree and doctorate from Northwestern University. He has researched and published widely on immigration history, and especially on German Americans. His latest publication is *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820–1870* (2nd ed., 2009).

**Ray E. Boomhower** is senior editor for the IHS Press, where he is responsible for the publication of the IHS's quarterly popular history magazine, *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. His previous books have included biographies of author and Civil War general Lew

Wallace, famed Hoosier war correspondent Ernie Pyle, suffragette and peace activist May Wright Sewall, World War II photographer John A. Bushemi, U.S. Navy ace Alex Vraciu and astronaut Gus Grissom. In 1998, Boomhower received the Hoosier Historian award from the IHS. His "Indiana History" column appears monthly in *Senior Life*.

**Vicki Casteel** has been an archivist with the Indiana State Archives for 13 years. She creates and manages the databases volunteers use to index the collections, which are later transferred to the digital archives. She is working to update the Archive's Web site and increase awareness and access to the Archive's many valuable collections.

**John Philip Colletta** taught workshops at the National Archives and courses for the Smithsonian Institution for 21 years. Today, he lectures nationally and teaches occasional courses at local universities. Colletta is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. His publications include numerous articles, two manuals — *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* (1993) and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for American* (1993) — and one murder mystery, *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* (2000). Colletta has appeared frequently on podcasts, local and national radio and television and is featured in the PBS series *Ancestors*. His doctorate in Medieval French is from The Catholic University of America.

**Roberta J. Estes** founded DNAeXplain in 2004, following a successful 25-year career as president of Information Access Strategies Inc. Estes is a professional scientist and business owner and has been a genealogist since 1978. Her specialty is southern colonial records, primarily in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Records of Native Americans, African Americans and other indentured individuals are of particular interest. The speaker's mixed heritage has allowed her to participate in every aspect of DNA testing for genealogy, revealing unexpected surprises.

Estes was one of the early DNA surname administrators and pioneer adopters of DNA analysis for genealogy. She manages more than 20 surname projects including the large regional Cumberland Gap Y-line and mtDNA projects with more than 1,000 participants each. Estes founded the Lost Colony Genealogy and DNA Research group in 2007. She also performs a significant amount of both genealogical and DNA research and analysis pertaining to both surname projects and individual clients' test results.

**Andrew Frohberg** is currently a graduate student at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis pursuing a dual master's degree in public history and library science. Frohberg has previously worked as an intern for Ball State Archives and Special Collections and the Indiana State Archives. He is expected to graduate in December.

**Thomas D. Hamm** is a native of New Castle, Ind., and received his doctorate in history from Indiana University in 1985. Since 1987, he has been archivist and professor of history at Earlham College. He is the author of many books and articles on Quaker and religious history.

**John A. Herbst**, IHS president and CEO since 2006, started his career as a high school history teacher in Paterson, N.J. For the next 10 years, he served successively as a curator at the Paterson Museum, education director at The New Jersey Historical Society and first executive director of the new American Labor Museum. From 1986 to 1997, Herbst led the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania through unprecedented growth, heading up a \$55 million community investment to create the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. For five years, Herbst was the president of Conner Prairie, where he added new time periods to the historic areas and implemented major changes in the visitor experience. Herbst served two years as the president and CEO of the Indiana State Museum. He has been an officer and board member of many national, state and regional professional organizations.

**Charles Hessler** holds history degrees from Indiana University and Stanford University and a law degree from Indiana University. He is a retired attorney and has done genealogical research for nearly 40 years. Hessler volunteers at the Indiana State Archives and the Fishers Family History Center.

**Alan January** is director of patron services at the Indiana State Archives. He holds a doctorate in American history from the University of Iowa. Since 1997, he has directed the State Archives' Naturalization Indexing Project, working with staff and volunteers to index naturalization records transferred by clerks of court in 69 counties in Indiana.

**Shamele Jordon** is a researcher, lecturer and podcaster. Her biographical highlights include researcher for the PBS series *Oprah's Roots: An African American Lives Special* and *African American Lives II*, former president of the African American Genealogy Group in Philadelphia, Pa., and lecturer at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research in Birmingham, Ala.

**Norbert Krapf**, Indiana Poet Laureate, taught at Long Island University for 34 years before moving to Indianapolis in 2004. Since his return to Indiana, he has published five books and released a CD with Indiana University jazz pianist and composer Monika Herzig. Earlier, he edited a book of pioneer German journals and letters from his native southern Indiana.

**George G. Morgan** is an internationally recognized genealogy expert, author and lecturer. He is the prolific author of eight books and hundreds of magazine, journal and online articles in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore. His two most recent books are *How to Do Everything: Genealogy* (2nd ed., 2009) and *The Official Guide to Ancestry.com* (2nd ed., 2008). He is the vice president of membership services of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and director of the Florida Genealogical Society in Tampa. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and more than a dozen societies in the United States and United Kingdom.

**David E. Rencher** is employed by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City as the chief genealogical officer for FamilySearch. A professional genealogist since 1977, he was accredited in Ireland research in 1981. Rencher graduated from Brigham Young University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in family and local history. He is the Irish course coordinator and instructor for the Samford University Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research in Birmingham, Ala. He is a past president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) and a Fellow of the UGA.

**Loretto Dennis Szucs** is vice president of community relations at Ancestry.com and a board member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, for which she was founding secretary. She has served on advisory boards for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, the Illinois State Archives and the Cook County (Ill.) Circuit Court Archives, as well as governing boards of several genealogical societies.

Szucs's books include: *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, editions 2 and 3 co-edited with Sandra Luebking (1997 and 2006); *They Became Americans* (1997); and *Ellis Island: Tracing Your Family Through America's Gateway* (2000). Szucs coauthored with Sandra Luebking *The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches* (1988) and with Matt Wright *Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records* (2001). Recent awards include the Silver Tray from the Utah Genealogical Society (2008) and the Professional Achievement Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists (2009).