Family History Series

Presented by Duane Roen

Weaving Cultural History into Our Family History Writing

Saturday, February 15 & Wednesday, February 19 10:30 am - 12:00 pm 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Meeting Room B

Sometimes family historians have only names, dates, and places for ancestors. But the more we gather names, dates, and other genealogical facts, the more we yearn for more personal connections to and understanding of those who came before us, found in stories about their lives and accounts of their daily struggles, hopes, and dreams. How can we enrich the stories that we write abou our ancestors if we have relatively few details about their lives? Duane will talk about using cultural/social history to flesh out the stories that we write about ancestors. Such history can give us a better understanding of what our ancestors experienced.

Publishing Your Family History

Wednesday, March 12 & 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 15 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meeting Room B

Although many people automatically consider books to be the best media for publishing family histories, there are many other ways to make your family history writing available to interested readers. In this workshop we will spend some time discussing book publishing, but we will also consider a range of digital media and venues that are more cost effective than printed books and that can more easily reach a larger audience.

Organizing Your Family History

Wednesday, April 16 6:30 - 8:00 pm

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Saturday, April 19 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Meeting Room B

There are many ways to write family history, and we will consider a range of possibilities in this workshop--reference histories, family narratives, biographies, autobiographies, edited diaries and letters, fictional family sagas, memoirs, and others. We will also consider a range of organizational approaches--e.g., chronological, thematic, associative, metaphorical.

Duane Roen has been tracing his roots since his teenage years, building a database with more than 32,000 ancestors. He and his wife, Maureen Roen, have also been recording their family history since 1978 by writing more than 15,000 daily journal entries on their children and other family members. Combining his professional and personal interests, Duane worked with colleagues to establish courses on writing and recording family history in the School of Letters and Sciences at ASU. He also is founding coordinator of the Project for Writing and Recording Family History at the school. Although Duane loves family history, he spends most of his waking hours serving as Assistant Vice Provost for University Academic Success Programs for Arizona State University. He also serves as faculty head of Interdesciplinary and Liberal Studies in the School

of Letters and Sciences at ASU.