

Blaine Bettinger Seminar on DNA and AI

October 18, 2025, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

9:15 am – 10:30 am

10 Generative AI Prompts Every Genealogist Needs to Know

The “prompt” is perhaps the most important aspect of generative artificial intelligence (AI). The prompt is how we direct AI tools to give us the output we desire. However, forming these prompts can be challenging and is rarely a one-shot attempt. We will identify how to formulate (and reformulate!) AI prompts and look at ten example prompts that can save us significant time and effort.

10:45 am -12 noon

DNA-Based Relationship Estimators and Analyzers

Explore the tools and methodologies used in genetic genealogy to estimate and analyze relationships between individuals based on DNA data. This lecture will cover how relationship estimators analyze shared DNA segments to predict familial connections. We will discuss the science behind these estimators, including centimorgan (cM) values and segment analysis, and how they are used to build and verify family trees. Attendees will learn to interpret DNA match results, utilize relationship prediction tools effectively, and address common challenges, such as outliers. By integrating these advanced DNA analysis techniques, genealogists can enhance their research, solve complex family mysteries, and validate traditional genealogical findings. *This will have an interactive component.*

12:00 noon – 1:15 pm Lunch break

1:15 pm -2:30 pm

Evaluating a Genealogical Conclusion Including DNA Evidence –

Incorporating DNA evidence with documentary evidence is not a simple matter. It requires careful and methodical analysis of a variety of different autosomal DNA limitations and pitfalls, many of which we will discuss in this session. For example, we will examine essential considerations for EVERY genealogical conclusion using DNA, including confirmation bias, Tree Completeness, shared DNA amounts, and more.

2:45 – 4:00 pm

The Helen Marley Story

A case study identifying the mother of my adopted great-grandmother, born Helen Marley Johnson. Although no single record identifies her mother, indirect evidence and DNA testing makes the case.

About our speaker:

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started The Genetic Genealogist (www.thegeneticgenealogist.com), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Blaine is the author of [The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy](#), and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning [Genetic Genealogy in Practice](#), the world's first genetic genealogy workbook. He also co-authored "Genetics for Genealogy" with Judy Russell in 2018's [Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards \(ProGen PPS\)](#) (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).



Blaine is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at the [Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research \(IGHR\)](#), [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy \(SLIG\)](#), [Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh \(GRIP\)](#), and [Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research](#). Blaine is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 21, a trustee for the [New York Genealogical and Biographical Society](#), and a member of the [DNAngels](#) Board of Directors since 2022 (President since January 2023), and a member of the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods ([SWGAM](#)) "[Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group](#)" since 2019.

He is also the founder in 2017 of Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques, a very active Facebook group with more than 75,000 members.

Blaine was last in Austin with us presenting a full DNA seminar in 2018 and we're excited to welcome him back!