

# When and How to Use a Consultant

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This Complete Presentation  
is available online

[www.dennisAhogan.com](http://www.dennisAhogan.com)

click on Lectures and Handouts tab

# Some Resources

For more info see:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Hiring\\_a\\_Professional\\_Researcher](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Hiring_a_Professional_Researcher)

Want to become a professional or work with a professional?

See the book: Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards, Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed.

# Are There Differences?

What is a professional genealogist?

What is a certified genealogist?

What is an accredited genealogist?

Are You Ready  
for a  
Consultant?



Never Fear  
A  
Professional  
Genealogist  
Can Solve  
All of Your  
Problems!!



# What are the signs?

You don't have the time/You are burned out

You're stuck at a brick wall

You cannot travel to the target geographic area

You do not read/speak the language of the old country

You want help applying to a Lineage Society

You want help with DNA analysis

Others...

# What does a professional genealogist do?

Depending on your needs:

Research ancestry

Research descendants

Search records

DNA analysis

Research for lineage society membership

Adoption research

Computerize genealogical information

Digitize sources

Organize stuff - physical and/or digital



# The Pros of Hiring a Pro

Pros (in theory) -

Knowledge of records and availability

Knows how to approach a project

Brings skepticism and objectivity

Probably has access to subscription and other sites

Knows the resources of the target geographic area

# The Cons

\$ (How Much? - \$20 to \$120 per hour plus)

No guarantees of finding anything that you already do not know.

Their process likely will include redoing some of your research.

# How to select a genealogist

Define your needs (the more specific the better)

Focus on 1 line...probably 1 immigrant

Focus on 1 geographic area (or a limited subset of ancestral locations)

Define your goal

Decide what kind of research you want -  
ancestral, descendancy, etc.

Organize your genealogical materials based on  
your focus

# How to select a genealogist Cont'd

Find some professional candidates

The differences amongst the 3 US-ish organizations

Code of Ethics

Review directories of genealogists

Select 3-5 who match your needs

Should have easy access to the desired ancestral locations

Their specialty should match your needs

# How to select a genealogist Cont'd

Contact the selected candidates:

Ask for copy of contract and description of their process

Ask about charges and timing/method of payment

(I suggest an initial defined block of time followed by subsequent defined blocks of time.)

Ask for work samples

# How to select a genealogist Cont'd

Review the work samples:

Are they following the Genealogical Proof Standard?

Reasonably exhaustive search of pertinent sources

Insure they document sources/Are they using primary sources

Effectively analyzed conflicts and documented their resolution