



GS1717 – Overcoming Genealogy Roadblocks by Crowdsourcing with RootsBid

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Time and Place

February 4, 2016, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Room 155E

February 5, 2016, Friday, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Room 255B

Course Overview

Finding your ancestors on a census and a few vital records are generally the first steps in family history research. What happens when the easy things are done and you hit your first genealogy roadblock? Roadblocks can be caused due to several factors, including language, lost records, or geographic distance barriers (i.e., records are located in a non-indexed distant archive on another continent). The cost in travel and time for oneself or a consultant to pursue your work can be prohibitive! In this class we will introduce you to the RootsBid genealogy marketplace and show you how to use it to get past your unique barriers.

This class will provide an overview of the RootsBid concept and website, walk attendees through posting a project and bidding on other users' projects, and sharing case studies of how RootsBid has helped overcome genealogy barriers.

What You Will Learn in the Class

At the end of this course, you will:

1. Learn about multiple ways to overcome genealogy roadblocks,
2. Be introduced to RootsBid.com and how it can help you overcome these roadblocks,
3. Learn how to post a good project on RootsBid.com,
4. Learn how to bid on a project, and
5. Learn how to grow your genealogy research network with experts from around the world.

What To Do At Home To Prepare For the Class

Send your genealogy questions to the presenters in advance. If you have a genealogy obstacle, tell us about it via email (info@rootsbid.com) and we will respond to as many real-life inquiries as possible during the length of our presentation. Be sure to include *RootsTech 2016 Presentation* in the Subject Line of your email.

Prep to Post Your Project:

- Find your genealogy “brick wall” or roadblock and bring it with you to our class.

- Be sure to bring with you all the possible details about your obstacle (e.g., full names, dates—even approximate ones, relatives, information you know is NOT correct, and other clues).
- Where in the world could these records be found (England, France, Australia, Bangladesh) or can the information be researched and obtained from “anywhere”?

Prep to Bid on Others' Projects

- Become familiar with local genealogy resources such as Family History Centers, courthouses, libraries, etc.
- Become familiar with the best online resources.
- What special skills do you have that could help others, such as translating documents, editing family histories, photograph and videography services, etc.?

Overcoming Genealogy Roadblocks Case Studies

CS 1a: This first case study will share several real-life examples of common genealogy “roadblocks” many people encounter in their family history or genealogy work. We will discuss the pros and cons of hiring professional assistance versus going at it on your own. We will discuss reasonable prices for professional genealogy assistance, and who is ideal to help solve various genealogy obstacles.

CS 1b: The second part of the first case study will help class members learn how to get started with RootsBid. We will step a class member through this actual process with a real genealogy roadblock (or project) that she/he needs to overcome.

CS 2: The second case study will provide guidance on how to conduct oral interviews in genealogy research. It is based on a past RootsBid project. We will also showcase some of the additional resources available on RootsBid.com, including the RootsBid Blog and questionnaire templates for interviewing family members, friends, historical figures, and others.

CS 3: Through its Affiliates Program, RootsBid is building a global network of genealogists that range from students to certified professionals with many years of experience. This case study highlights the affiliate partnership between RootsBid and the University of Strathclyde – Glasgow, where students and alumni of the University of Strathclyde provide genealogy expertise to RootsBid users, which automatically expands the professional network of RootsBid users. It is also a reciprocal partnership that benefits University of Strathclyde students, faculty members, and alumni with an ability to bid on projects and help meet the needs of overcoming users' genealogy roadblocks.

CS 4: This final case study will share several examples of where RootsBid users were able to find answers to their genealogy questions by going through the RootsBid Process. Examples include those from two recent RootsBid users:

I wanted to share my great experience using RootsBid. I was having trouble finding information about my father's family. I signed up for RootsBid and wanted to see if I could get some help with his family line. It was easy to post my project and only took a few minutes. Within a few weeks, I received and accepted a very reasonable bid from a user in England. Within three weeks, I had received more information than I requested! This

was a complete breakthrough for me, and my whole family was excited. This line had been a "brick wall" for four years. In just over a month, and with a total of about 20 minutes of my effort, this line was open. I am so grateful to RootsBid for making this possible.

—Michael Parker, Cardston, Canada

Placing bids on RootsBid is a great experience. My research skills are honed with the variety of challenging projects available. RootsBid is a terrific way to use my skills, help other people find their families, and earn some extra income. If you are an experienced researcher looking for an avenue to improve your skills and earn some extra money, give RootsBid a try.

—Lauren Leifson, Accredited Genealogist, Salt Lake City, Utah

Where To Learn More

This class will provide you with multiple suggestions and ideas on how to overcome your genealogy roadblocks. RootsBid is one example, whether it is a little snag or a giant obstacle. Don't let distances or lack of information stand in your way. Come and learn how RootsBid can help you start moving forward on your research anywhere in the world!

- RootsBid Homepage: www.rootsbid.com
- RootsBid Blog on Great Genealogy Tips and Stories: www.rootsbid.com/blog



<https://www.facebook.com/rootsbid/>



<https://twitter.com/RootsBid>



<https://www.pinterest.com/rootsbid/>



RootsBid
We walk where your ancestors walked

How the RootsBid Process Works

