

SPEAKER PROFILES

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Medicine Hat & District Genealogical Society Conference

Gena Philibert-Ortega

Gena is an author, researcher, and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women's history. She holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology and Women's Studies) and a Master's degree in Religion. Her published works include two books, numerous articles published in magazines and online, two volumes of *Tracing Female Ancestors* (Moorshead Publishing), and a QuickGuide from Legacy Family Tree. She is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, *Crossroads*. Her writings can be found on her blogs, Gena's Genealogy and Food.Family.Ephemera as well as the GenealogyBank blog. She has presented to diverse groups including the National Genealogical Society Conference, the Alberta Genealogical Society Conference, the Geo-Literary Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Legacy Family Tree Webinar series. Her research projects include *Sowerby's British Mineralogy: Its Influence on Martha Proby and Others in the Scientific Community during the 19th Century* for the Gemological Institute of America, as well as genealogical research for the first season of PBS's *Genealogy Roadshow* and the Travel Channel's *Follow Your Past*. Her current research includes women's repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women's material culture.

Diahan Southard

After getting bitten by the DNA bug as a high school student, Diahan went on to study at Brigham Young University where she earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology. She worked before and after graduation for the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, one of the first efforts to create a correlated genetic and genealogical database.

Growing up with the budding genetic genealogy industry lead her to her current position at Your DNA Guide, where she provides personalized, interactive experiences to assist individuals and families in interpreting their genetic results in the context of their genealogical information. That means she can take you step by step through any kind of DNA test in a way that you will understand, and even enjoy!

Diahan has been pleased to lecture in many areas including both national and local conferences, from hundreds to handfuls. You will walk away from an interaction with her feeling like she is fun, upbeat, and full of energy. You might also be surprised to leave feeling that you really can do this DNA thing! This is because she has a passion for genetic genealogy, a genuine love for people, and a gift for making the technical understandable.

Diahan is the author of several quick guides on genetic genealogy, a regular contributor to Genealogy Gems, featured writer for Family Tree Magazine, regular contributor to Genealogy Today, as well as many other small writing engagements. While she truly enjoys enlightening minds of genealogists everywhere about the merits of DNA testing in genealogy, her greatest DNA contribution is her three children. It is to them that she devotes the majority of her time and energies as they are ages 14, 11, and 9. For this reason she feels it is a true gift that she is can be a stay at home mom, and a work from home business woman. Of course this would never be possible without the unwavering support of her tall and handsome husband who holds down the fort in south Florida as she travels and lectures across the country.