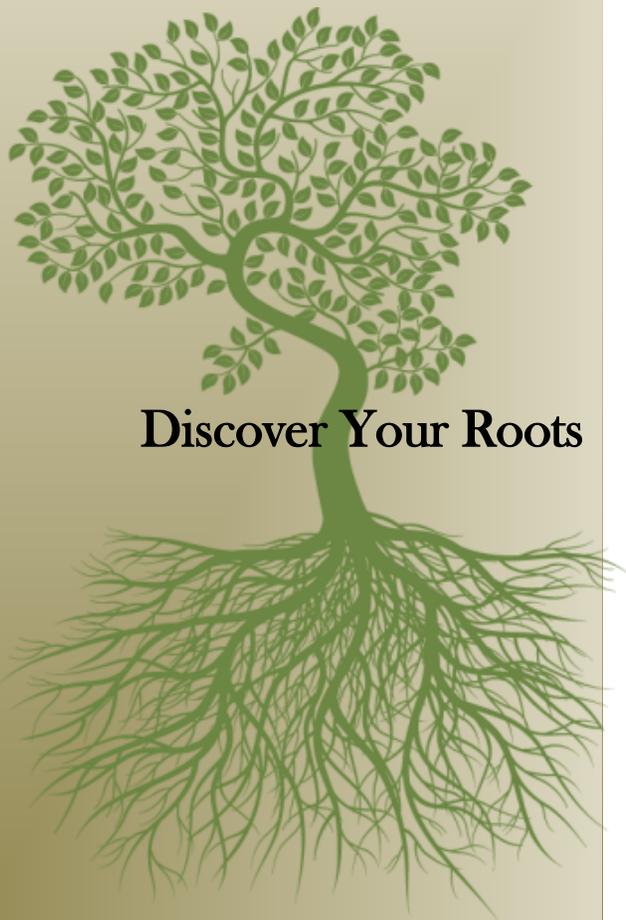


Shake the Tree



Rebecca Kichta Miller, founder of *Shake the Tree . . . Discover Your Roots*, was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, mostly on the South Side, and is the eldest of seven children. I have been "doing genealogy" since 1971 when her mother gave her copies of two family trees: one from her mother's brother that he created after a trip to Ireland and the other done by a distant cousin of her father who was trying to document his paternal great grandmother's family for a DAR application, both of which proved to be wrong after 20 years of research.

In 1975, I moved away from Pittsburgh. In the days before the internet, I spent many days scouring libraries and repositories for information to fill in the gaps on these family trees and many a vacation back in Pittsburgh collecting photos, stories, and memorabilia. Once living in Northern Virginia and working in Washington, D.C., I then discovered the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the DAR Headquarters. With the advent of the Internet, a trip to Ireland, many, many interviews with close family members, numerous educational seminars, webinars, and conferences, and DNA testing under my belt, I now consider myself a "Not-Certified Genealogist."

Upon moving back to Pittsburgh in 2006, I was now able to do hands-on research at local genealogical repositories. Having served as the President of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society five times in the past ten years, I've also served as the Editor of the Society's newsletter, *Jots from Western Pennsylvania* since 2012. Each September, I volunteer to organize a genealogy pavilion at both the [Pittsburgh Irish Festival](#) and the [Ligonier Highland Games](#), providing outreach and resources to anyone who has an interest in family history, whether they have Irish or Scottish ancestors or not. As an active member of numerous local, state, national, and international genealogical societies, I work hard to keep my skills up-to-date in order to share family history research methods.

With three sons, three daughters-in-law, four granddaughters, two grandsons, and one great grandson, I try to make sure that they are all very aware of their diverse heritage and who their ancestors were.

The fee is \$125.00 for each one-hour session (negotiable), which includes a two-page printed handout for each segment. Keynote speaking: \$100.00 per event

Also available are all-day seminars, which would include four sessions (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) for \$500 (negotiable) with handouts. A 15-minute Q&A ends each session.

Private instruction fees are based on an hourly rate of \$25.00, with the first hour free.

Rebecca Kichta Miller

Genealogy Instructor and Lecturer

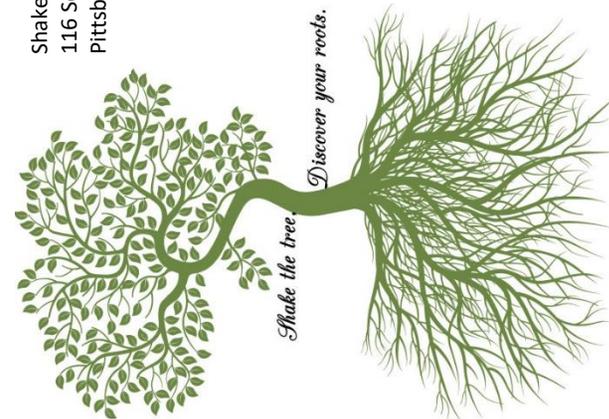
116 South 19th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1834

Phone: 412-488-8090

E-mail: shake_the_tree@hotmail.com

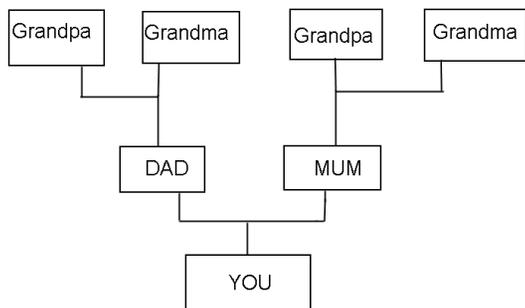
www.shakethefamilytree.com

Shake the Tree . . . Discover Your Roots
116 South 19th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1834



Genealogy – Where to Begin?

Begin with yourself. Work through your family, gathering resources along the way. Learn how to carefully record your findings in a permanent place, whether on paper or digital.



Getting Your Paper, Digital Files, and Mind Organized

Once you've gotten started gathering your genealogy and recording everything that you've found, how do you get a grip on the "mess" you've created? Learn how to simply organize your research, on paper or digitally, and keep it that way, as well as how to organize your mind with a technique called mind-mapping.



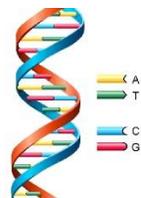
Creating a Family Archive

There a difference between archiving your family history and scrapbooking the major life events of your family. However, preserving your family's original photos and mementos takes specific skills. Learn skills that can take your prized possessions out of those old albums, storage boxes, and trunks and into the next century.



Technology for Genealogy

So, you want to use more than your desktop computer to enhance your family history research capabilities. Learn about the latest technology for searching, organization, archiving, preservation, and communication. More than just "googling."



What Your DNA Test Will NOT Tell You

So, you've spent the money, spit in a tube or scrapped your cheek with a very long Q-Tip, sent it off for analysis, and the results are back.

What were the results? Did they give you addresses of long lost relatives? Did you find a sister that you never knew you had? If yes, how wonderful for you!!!! If no, where do you go from here? This session will give you information to get moving in the right direction to figure out what is real and what is not, and what to do with the information now.



Electrifying Your Family Tree

ALL-DAY SEMINAR

Participants are asked to bring their laptop and 10 documents (birth, baptism, marriage, death, cemetery, census, etc.) If a laptop is needed, one can be provided with prior request, but a flash drive will be required.

Instructions to download the necessary software will be provided prior to the seminar. You can use this free software to track your family history names, dates, locations, events, documents, and photos in one convenient location.

This seminar will include setting up a profile and folders, navigating the software, adding data from documents, connecting to online sources, backing up the database, creating a shareable CD, a family group, importing and exporting data, publishing your tree.

NOTE: Electrifying Your Family Tree is also available as individual instruction.

Finding Your Irish and/or Scottish Ancestors

Many have become frustrated and given up finding their ancestors on the great island of Ireland or in Scotland. The consensus has been for many years that all searching will do is



lead to a headache and a dead end. Learn how to methodically search the newest resources, whether online or in repositories that will require

correspondence or an actual visit. Locate these present-day resources to find those long-lost ancestors and you'll have an easier time tracking down those illusive ancestors "across the pond."



Are You Scots-Irish or an Ulster-Scot? What's the Difference?

Are to Scottish? Irish? Neither? Learn where the term Scots-Irish originated, how it was used in the past few centuries, and what it really means to be Scots-Irish.



Writing Your Family History – Literally and Technically

ALL-DAY SEMINAR

Learn how to piece together biographical sketches and family histories on paper (literally), and then produce them into shareable documents (technically).

Bring your tablet, laptop, or at least a pen and clipboard, for this hands-on program. Hopefully you will leave with your first story formulated, at least in your head if not on paper.

Keynote Speaking for Events

- *When Your Ancestors Want to be Found, They Will Find You*
- *50+ years of Searching and Still Not Sure About My Great Grandfathers*
- *It's Not in Your DNA*
- *Are You a Fact Finder or Storyteller or both?*