

Bob Butler – Bio & Summary

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018:
PRESENTER: R.E. (Bob) BUTLER, GENEALOGIST, RETIRED ENGINEER, FLDC MEMBER
SUBJECT: Current Genealogy Practice – Computer Tools and DNA Tests

Professionally, Bob has a PhD in Electrical Engineering from UBC. Most of his career was with Inco's corporate Process Development & Engineering departments, where he specialized in Process Simulation & Control, IT and Engineering Management.

He has been actively working on genealogy for over 30 years, starting in the "bad old days" when genealogical data was much harder to find and organize. Bob is a member of the Ontario Genealogy Society (OGS) and a participant in the OGS Computer Special Interest Group. He is also a member of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. (BIFHSGO) He has provided Research Room support at the Ottawa conferences put on by both organizations.

Bob has co-hosted genealogy workshops at the North Lanark Historical Society for several years. The workshops start with an overview presentation, which is followed by on line demonstrations of family tree building, and then sessions where attendees work on their own trees. A DNA session was added to the workshops in 2013.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

This presentation begins with a discussion of genealogy objectives, and leads to an overview of the online services and PC programs by major companies.

DNA tests for genealogy are now routine. This presentation includes a minimal introduction to DNA biology and the types of tests available. Sample test results are shown for ethnicity estimates. Autosomal tests are used to find matches with close or distant relatives, and are used to confirm kinship or extend family trees. Sample test reports and a comparison of match results from different companies is provided.

The presentation will be useful for beginners trying to decide where to start. The comparison charts for both conventional and genetic genealogy will be of interest to experienced genealogists.