



## Open Interactive Discussions

*Rootstech will feature unique collaborative discussions with intriguing panelists and topics that will involve and engage audience participation.*

### Schedule:

Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM	<b>“Value and use of APIs”</b> moderated by Ancestry Insider
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> 4:15 PM	<b>“How should we handle sources”</b> moderated by Rick Laxman
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> 9:45 AM	<b>“Exploring cemetery solutions”</b> moderated by Gordon Clarke
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> 1:45 AM	<b>“How do we define a person”</b> moderated by Phil Windley
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> 9:46 AM	<b>“Genealogical data standards”</b> moderated by Ancestry Insider

### Session Details:

**Thursday 10th 3:00 PM**

## **“Value and use of APIs” moderated by Ancestry Insider**

**Event Description:** A panel of companies offering APIs will be available to take a few minutes to share there API offerings. A few questions will be asked the panelist by the Moderator, then any questions from the audience will be put to the panel to respond.

**Confirmed Panelists:** Kendall Hulet (Ancestry), Noah Tulak (Geni.com), Gordon Clarke (FamilySearch), Alan Eaton (One Great Family), Scott Huskey (Photoloom), Scott Mueller(AppleTree), Dovy Paukstys (SharingTime)

### **Possible Questions:**

- What is the value of Application Program Interfaces?
- Do you have a preferences regarding SOAP, REST, or other protocols?
- What do you think about XML, JSON, or AMF?
- What should an API provider offer? ( sample code, discussion boards, support)
- What structure do you like for API documentation?
- Whats the difference between proprietary and open APIs?
- Can the industry benefit from common APIs?

Thursday 10th 4:15 PM

## "How should we handle sources"

*moderated by Rick Laxman*

**Event Description:** Open discussion is invited about from genealogist, software vendors, and users about the value of sources, how to best to obtain evidence, save it and share them. Ground-rules for the open-meeting and consensus building will be explained before the discussion begins.

**Confirmed Participants:** many bloggers, software vendors, and website providers

### **Possible Questions:**

- What is the definition of and the difference between a Source and a Citation?
- What are the pros and cons of source templates and wizards?
- How should the "Genealogical Proof Standard" be used?
- What is the value of linking to an online representation of a source?
- How important is indexing (transcribing) sources?
- Should source images be made available without indexes?

Friday 11th 9:45 AM

## "Exploring cemetery solutions" *moderated by Gordon Clarke*

**Event Description:** A panel of companies offering current or future cemetery solutions will be available to take a few minutes to share their offerings. A few questions will be asked the panelist by the Moderator, then any questions from the audience will be put to the panel to respond.

**Confirmed Panelists:** AncestralHunt, Names-In-Stone, R-Focus, FamilySearch, Sharing-Time, AppTime

### **Possible Questions:**

- How is cemetery data common with genealogical source data ?
- How should volunteers transcribe tomb stones ?
- Can cemetery data be associated with Family Trees ?
- How can geo-coding and cemetery surveys work together ?
- Can smart phones be used to digitize and transcribe tomb stones?

**Friday 11th 1:45 PM**

## **"How do we define a person" *moderated by Phil Windley***

**Event Description:** Open discussion is invited from genealogist, software vendors, social media advocates and users about the identity of a person, how do you describe, share, and protect privacy of an individual whether living or dead. Ground-rules for the open-meeting and consensus building will be explained before the discussion begins.

**Confirmed Participants:** many bloggers, software vendors, social media developers and website providers

### **Possible Questions:**

- What are the commonalities between the identity of an internet person and a genealogical person?
- How should we profile a contributor?
- Can or should Open Connect be used for the genealogical industry?
- How can you communicate with a person without knowing their identity?
- What is different about profiling and protecting the identity of a living person and a deceased person?
- What rights or controls should a person and the descendants have regarding the person's history ?

**Saturday 10th 9:45 AM to 12:00 PM**

## **"Genealogical data standards" *moderated by Ancestry Insider***

**Event Description:** Open discussion is invited from genealogist, software vendors, and users about the need for standards for saving and sharing genealogical information about persons, families, events, places, citations, sources, unique identifiers, persistent URLs, etc. Focus will be more on the standardization/consensus building process than reaching any detail conclusions. Genealogical Ground-rules for the open-meeting and consensus building will be explained before the discussion begins.

**Confirmed Participants:** many bloggers, software vendors, and website providers

### **Possible Questions:**

- How are standards formed? (popularity or standards bodies)
- Do we have Person focus OR records focus OR both?
- What's the difference between a data model and a file format?
- Why do we need standardize file formats?
- What are the concerns about models for person? Family relationships? Events? Sources?
- What are the pros and cons of getting support by major software/website vendors?