

Biography

Deborah A. Abbott, PhD

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Deborah A. Abbott, PhD, is a professional genealogist, specializing in African American research, manuscript collections and genealogy methodology. She serves as a Trustee on the Board of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS); Chairperson of the Cleveland District Roundtable (CDRT) which is a discussion group of the leadership of the genealogical societies in the five-county district of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina; a member of the Cuyahoga County Archives Advisory Commission; and a member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). She is an associate with the Kentucky-Tennessee Associates based in Springfield, TN; past president of the African American Genealogical Society, Cleveland, OH; and a retired professor of Counseling from Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. She holds both the BS and M.Ed. degrees from Tuskegee University in Alabama and the PhD degree from Kent State University in Ohio.

Dr. Abbott is an instructor as well as the coordinator for both the week long African American tract at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) held at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA and the Genealogy Research Institute of Pittsburgh held at LaRoche University in Pittsburgh, PA. She is an instructor at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) in Salt Lake City, UT; and the African American Genealogy Colloquium at Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. She presents lectures and workshops at a variety of national, state, and local genealogy conferences across the country, as well as colleges, businesses & libraries. She has had articles published in both the *Ohio Genealogy News* and *Family Tree Magazines*. Dr. Abbott can be seen teaching African American research entitled “Needles & Threads” on *Ancestry Academy*, an educational website video course for Ancestry.com. She teaches monthly classes entitled “Using Ancestry.com in Genealogy Research” at the Lakewood (Ohio) Public Library and coordinates the “Genealogy and Family History Clinic” for the Cleveland Public Library.

Dr. Abbott is a member of National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Association of Professional Genealogist (APG) and the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG). She is a life member of the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, Detroit, MI, as well as a member of other state and local genealogical societies.

A Cleveland, Ohio native, she is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Tuskegee University National Alumni Association, and Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland.