



Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA (DBA Circlemending), has been involved in family research for over 45 years. A former Board Certified genealogist, she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the National Genealogical Society (NGS), and is or has been on the following Boards: the California State Genealogical Alliance (now disbanded), the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (now disbanded), the Assoc. of Professional Genealogists (past APG board member and past president of the So. Calif. Chapter), and the Corona Genealogical Society (past-president, current 1st VP, and webmaster). She writes the “Ask Aunty Jeff” column for the Jefferson County, NY, Genealogical Society *Informer* and maintains her own website with information about her presentations, CDs, articles, projects, etc.: <https://circlemending.org>.

Jean is associated with the Corona California FamilySearch Center (former director, current family history consultant); she was the lead researcher for the 2013 Season of the PBS television program *Genealogy Roadshow* and did research for *Follow Your Past*, appearing on Travel Channel in 2016. A native of the Chicago suburbs and retired Southern California college speech professor, she holds a *California Community College Lifetime Teaching Credential* – Language Arts and Literature (received May 1990), Bachelor’s (1988) and Master’s (1990) degrees in speech communication, and a doctorate in folklore (2008). Jean is a national speaker known for her entertaining, as well as informative, presentations, and is a frequent writer for various genealogy publications.

A former square dance caller, Jean has been playing guitar for about 60 years, learning a variety of other folk instruments along the way. She sees a connection between family history and music because, in learning about our forebears, we try to piece together the various elements of our ancestors' lives in an effort to create a complete (or as complete as possible) picture of who they were in their homes, families, occupations, religions, and activities. Their musical interests/involvement should be considered part of this whole picture, or circle, of their lives and that is the primary focus of much of Jean’s writings and programs.

Jean’s philosophy is that “who we are is a compilation of our experiences and associations as well as our biological connections. When we understand our ancestors we can better understand ourselves. By doing this, we can mend our personal family circles.” This connects to her mission statement: “My goal is to assist others in their efforts to connect generations (past to present), completing the family circle.”



Brief bio for introductions and short program notes:

Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA, former So. Cal. college speech professor (MA – Speech Communication; PhD – Folklore), is a national speaker and author. A member of the DAR, she is the former director and current family history consultant for the Corona, CA FamilySearch Center, has worked on background research for two genealogy television programs, and was a host for podcasts on social history. A former Board-Certified genealogist with over 45 years of research experience, she is a former board member of APG and past president of its So. Cal. Chapter; 1st Vice-president of the Corona Genealogical Society, as well as webmaster for that same organization; and participant on a number of other society boards. Jean writes the “Aunty Jeff” column for the *Informer*, the newsletter of the Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society. Her website: circlemending.org.

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