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## Grace DuMelle

*Finding Your Chicago Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide to Family History in the City and Cook County*

**Grace DuMelle** has been a professional researcher since 1995, helping clients from all over the United States and several foreign countries. Her firm, Heartland Historical Research Service (HHRS), has assisted the United States Department of Justice and Graystone Communications (parent company of The History Channel), among others. Heartland's projects have taken Grace to the Library of Congress and the National Archives as well as facilities throughout the greater Chicago area.

Since 2001, Grace has also been on staff at the Newberry Library in Chicago, one of the country's foremost genealogical libraries. Guiding beginners to discoveries about their families is something she greatly enjoys. Her experience on both sides of the reference desk—as a staffer and as a researcher—influenced the very practical, hands-on approach of her book.

Grace received a B. A. in English, magna cum laude, from what is now Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. She lectures frequently on research topics, and teaches classes in house history research and Chicago genealogy.

Media appearances include the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago* magazine, *Ancestry* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Weekend*, and WBEZ radio.

### Sample Interview Questions

- Why is genealogy the second-most popular hobby in the United States (after gardening)?
- Why is jumping on the Internet a bad idea for beginning family research? And what are some other common mistakes beginners make?
- What do you do when you find conflicting information, either from relatives or documents?
- How do you handle revealing family secrets involving living people? Do dead people have privacy rights?
- Where are the top places in the Chicago area for family history research?
- How do I find information on police and firefighter ancestors?
- What are new or overlooked sources for information about ancestors?
- What are some of the interesting things you've discovered for clients?  
(The case of the ancestor with an alias; locating Swedish client's half-sister with the maiden name Johnson; learning particulars of a grandfather's murder in 1917.)

**Lake Claremont Press authors are available for print and broadcast media interviews, and for bookstore and library events. For more information call 773/583-7800 or e-mail [elizabeth@lakeclaremont.com](mailto:elizabeth@lakeclaremont.com).**