

While I truly enjoy meeting my ancestors, I have learned that the greatest joy in genealogy and family history work is the live people I meet and get to know. Melanie McComb is one of those people. I met her first on Twitter, and she taught me by example how to encounter and engage in the world of Genie Twitter. I took on her ways, and now I'm more comfortable there than in any other online platform! I've also found hundreds of friends there, and I feel comfortable asking and answering questions in threads and one-on-one.

Melanie has, in one short year, gone from speaking as an independent genealogist, working on her own tree, to a full-time genealogist at the New England Historic Genealogy Society and American Ancestors. In this interview, she talks about the process of getting from point A to point B, the changes in her life as a result, and the work she does now. I hope you enjoy the interview.



Hello, and welcome to another episode of From Paper To People. I'm your hostess with the mostest, Carolynn ni Lochlainn, and I invite you to join me in genie-land for another interview in our series. But first, the news:

Supportive listener Stacy Ashmore Cole was interviewed recently on Berniece Bennett's Blog Talk Radio show about her project, documenting the names of enslaved persons in Liberty County, Georgia, and I recommend both the show and the episode. Stacy's project is definitely one that you should hear about. The URL is <https://bit.ly/2Guvj7W>.

My friend Olivia Dorsey also has a fantastic project: she realized that there was no central location for researchers to locate resources pertaining to poc or black genealogy. She decided to create a spreadsheet to aggregate them in one place. I'm going to add The Reparational Genealogy Project to it, and others have added their own projects. It's a great place to find volunteer opportunities as well as research resources. For more info, tweet her

@oliviacodes.

And...the podcast has a new supporter at Patreon! She's a Branch, and her name is Mary King. She gets a fridge magnet for her support!!!

Today's interview is with someone I met early on in the growth of this podcast. About a year ago, I noticed how generous she was on Twitter, and I tried to model my behavior on hers. She does everything right. She has since expanded from her own blog, research and speaking gigs to full-time genealogy work at the New England Historic Genealogy Society. I really wanted to hear how things have changed for her, so I realized it was time for a visit. Here now is the interview.

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If you want to know more about upcoming activities and regular services at the New England Historic Genealogy Society, you can find their fantastic website at americanancestors.org or follow them on twitter @ancestorexperts. You can also follow Melanie's personal doings on Twitter @ShamrockGen, at theshamrockgenealogist.com.

Thanks so much for listening today. Tune in next time when we'll talk about other fun things in the world of genealogy, and remember - do your research, don't be a Jeffrey, and Expect Surprises.




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