Ron Arons

Biography: Ron has given 250+ presentations internationally. He has authored three books, THE JEWS OF SING SING, WANTED! U.S. CRIMINAL RECORDS, and, most recently, MIND MAPS FOR GENALOGY. In 2006 he appeared on the PBS special THE JEWISH AMERICANS. In 2008 he won a Hackman Research Grant from the NY State Archives to continue his research on historical Jewish criminals in New York. Ron earned a B.S. in Engineering from Princeton University and an MBS from the University of Chicago.

Presentation Title: What's in a Name? Trouble!

Presentation Abstract: Ron presents how to put the Genealogical Proof Standard into action with a very complex example of identity merging and separation. Ron will discuss problems with changing names and how to deal with them. Ron will will discuss mind maps, a powerful technology for clearer thinking and extraordinary data correlation.

Presentation Description of the session: For years Ron Arons researched the life of his great-grandfather, who served time in Sing Sing Prison and who committed other crimes. Through the years, Ron came across records for other people with the same first and last names, born in the same timeframe, who lived in the same places as his relative, and who, by some stroke of luck, also found trouble, either in business or with women. With such an uncommon name as Isaac Spier, this is rather remarkable. In this talk you will see how the Genealogical Proof Standard was used to merge and separate many identities to determine exactly how many distinct individuals these documents represented. (The answer is truly remarkable!) You will also learn about names, name changes, and the reasons behind those changes. You will also learn about mind maps, a powerful technology and methodology for clearer thinking, data logging, and, most importantly, efficient and extraordinary data correlation. Specifically, many examples of mind maps created with FreeMind will be presented. This entertaining excursion into the world of trouble makers offers methodologies for truly advanced research for very challenging problems.