

## Genie Ologie's Gems® Michael Strauss, AG

By Kathleen Davis

VBGS's very own Michael L. Strauss, Accredited Genealogist, will speak in Provo, Utah at BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy – 2008 Strengthening Ties That Bind Families Together Forever. The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Brigham Young University Conference on Family History and Genealogy, takes place over a four-day period, July 29 through August 1, 2008, in the BYU Conference Center in Provo, Utah. More than 100 classes are offered throughout this conference, allowing participants to gain new skills and helpful information. Class topics include Beginning Family History, Family History Center Support, Computers and New Programs, Europe/Nordic Research, British Research, U.S. Research, Methodology, and Publishing Family Histories. Michael's several lectures at BYU include Photographic Treasures: Bringing Your Research into Focus, Researching Your Civil War Ancestor - A Comprehensive Study, and All in a Day's Work: Occupational Genealogical Research. <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/> for more details, registering.



Michael serves on the Board of Virginia Beach Genealogical Society as a Member-at-large. He is also Chairman of Programs. 2008 is his first year with VBGS and he is making waves. Michael is an Accredited Genealogist for the Eastern States Region. Mike is a native of Pennsylvania, a resident of Virginia and has been an avid genealogist for more than 30 years. He holds a B.A. in History and is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran. He continues working part-time with the Coast Guard Station Museum in Virginia Beach, VA as a research archivist. Mike serves as a Librarian at the Family History Center in Kempsville area of Virginia Beach, VA. Mike works at the Family History Center every other Saturday. He helps many researchers in a memorable manner. In addition, he is a research grant recipient from the Foundation for Coast Guard History (2004) and the General George C. Marshall Foundation (2005).

Mike brings his love of genealogy to life in every conversation, on every occasion possible. You can't miss Mike. He is a realistic, larger-than-life fellow with a long, flowing beard, who loves to play and work anything connected with genealogy. When asked why he sports a long beard, Mike responded innocently enough. "Number #1- I hate shaving. When I got into reenacting, I noticed that everyone who did it tried to look the part of a soldier. Everything on the field is first impression, and I didn't want to *not* fit in with everyone. So I did what everyone else did. I also like the beard because almost all my male ancestors had them and I like to honor them as well."

I suspect it is so he has more family and research time when he doesn't shave. What's not to like about Mike?

If you came to 10 May VBGS meeting, you met and heard Mike, all suited up, and got to sample his genealogical knowledge and energetic approach to genealogy and research. Right now, get out your datebook and pencil to jot 11 December 2008 down as a must-attend meeting for yourself and a friend. At this December VBGS meeting, he will present Genealogy Jeopardy with Ralph Tobias as the George Alexander "Alex" Trebek of genealogy. Don't miss out on the fun!