



For Immediate Release
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INTERVIEW WITH JAN BUTCHART

First Online Registrant for FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference

February 3, 2011 – Austin, TX. The FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference registration was not even officially open before we had our first online registrant on February 1, 2011. Here is a brief interview with Jan Butchart of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the first person to register at the [FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference](#) website:

- **Where will you be traveling from to attend the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference and how far of a distance is it?**

I'll be coming from Milwaukee, WI. It's about 300 miles.

- **Will you be driving, flying or using some other mode of travel? If you are driving, do you intend to make some research pit stops along the way? If so, where?**

I'll be driving. It's a 5 hour trip. No I don't plan on any research stops. My ancestors have no connections in Illinois that I'm aware of.

- **Do you currently belong to a genealogical society?**

Currently the only genealogical society I belong to is the [Tay Valley Family History Society](#). It's located in Dundee, Scotland. I have been a member of the [Milwaukee Genealogical Society](#) and the [Wisconsin State Genealogical Society](#) in the past.

- **Will you be traveling or attending the conference with anyone else?**

No one else shares my interest in family history so I travel to conferences alone.

- **Have you ever visited Springfield, IL before? If so, what can you tell us about the area?**

No, I've never been to Springfield before but I'm looking forward to it. I want to be sure to catch some of the Lincoln sites.

- **Have you attended a FGS Conference before? And if so, which one or ones?**

I attended the FGS Conference in Ft Wayne, IN. It was terrific. I learned so much. It also introduced me to the [Allen County Public Library](#) and its wonderful genealogical holdings. I did go back to do more research.

- **What is your favorite part of attending a genealogy conference like FGS/ISGS 2011?**

It's great to be in a place with so many people researching their families. There is sort of an energy that is contagious. I like the speakers the best. No matter what, I always learn something new or get a different take on a problem. And you never know if you're sitting next to a long lost cousin!

- **If you've attended before, what advice would you give a first-time FGS Conference attendee?**

My advice is to just enjoy yourself. Don't try to do everything. Pick the sessions that will help your research right now.

- **And finally, can you tell us a little bit about your genealogy research?**

My ancestors are all Scottish with a dash of Irish. The surnames I'm working on are: Butchart, McFarlane, McKenzie, Fraser and Kingston. The Butcharts are from the Dundee, Scotland area, and settled in Milwaukee in 1889. The McKenzies came over early in 1803 and bought land in upstate New York. They worked on the Erie Canal and followed the railroads to Wisconsin. The Kingstons are my Irish connection. They were from County Cork and emigrated in 1845. They spent some time in Pennsylvania and came west working on the railroads and settling in Waukesha County, WI. I don't have a blog but my tree is available on Ancestry.com at <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/1741706/>

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Learn all about the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference and register for this exciting four-day event at <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference>. Be sure to also visit or subscribe to the FGS Conference Blog at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org> for more information and travel advice. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield in September!

Learn More and Stay Connected

- Subscribe to Conference eUpdates: 2011Conference@fgs.org (place "Subscribe" in Subject line)
- Visit the Conference News Blog: <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org>
- Follow the Conference on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/fgs2011> and on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/fgs2011>
- Discover Springfield: <http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com>

About the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) was founded in 1976 and represents the members of hundreds of genealogical societies. FGS links the genealogical community by helping genealogical societies strengthen and grow through resources available online, *FGS Forum* magazine (filled with articles pertaining to society

management and genealogical news), and Society Strategy Series papers, covering topics about effectively operating a genealogical society. FGS also links the genealogical community through its annual conference -- four days of excellent lectures, including one full day devoted to society management topics. To learn more visit <http://www.fgs.org>.

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