



For Immediate Release
June 26, 2011

FAMILY HISTORY FANS FLOCK TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN SPRINGFIELD, IL, SEPT. 7-10, 2011

Presenters include noted Ohio speakers

June 26, 2011 – Austin, TX. The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), along with local host Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS), announce the FGS 2011 Conference – *Pathways to the Heartland* – to be held in Springfield, Illinois, September 7-10, 2011.

This year's conference offers an exciting opportunity for everyone interested in researching their family history. Over 165 educational sessions and 13 luncheons are designed to balance the needs of genealogists at all levels, exploring a variety of records, strategies, and other tools available to those interested in researching their family history.

Special events include a keynote address by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, and the FGS 35th Annual Celebration with "The Lincoln Family Album" presented by special guest, noted Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer.

Several Ohio-based genealogical speakers are among the presenters:

- **Deborah Abbott, PhD of Cleveland, Ohio**, is a lecturer and president of the African American Genealogical Society of Cleveland, Ohio. She is an adjunct faculty member at Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the National Genealogical Society, the Ohio Genealogical Society and FGS. She is a frequent speaker at genealogical societies, workshops & seminars.
- **Amy Johnson Crow, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio**, is a researcher, author, and editor. She is the webmaster for FGS. Amy is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree at Kent State University.
- **Diane VanSkiver Gagel, of Toledo, Ohio**, is a retired college instructor, freelance writer, and professional genealogist. Diane has been a speaker at the National Genealogical Society, FGS, and the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) annual conferences. Diane has served as OGS Chairman of the Board and is the Immediate Past President of OGS as well as a Fellow of OGS.
- **Diana Crisman Smith, of Olmsted Falls, Ohio**, Diana Crisman Smith is a national writer, speaker, teacher, researcher. Smith is a Family History Center

librarian, a columnist for the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, a Family Tree University online course instructor, Treasurer for both the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

- **Gary M. Smith, of Olmsted Falls, Ohio**, Gary M. Smith is a genealogical writer, speaker, editor and teacher. He is lay librarian at the FHC, is board member of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors and is the National Conference Coordinator of the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

Set at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield, the FGS 2011 Conference will also include a large exhibit hall with exhibitors and vendors. In addition, Springfield offers a wide variety of historic sites, libraries, and more for conference attendees as well as family and friends.

Genealogists and family historians of all experience levels are encouraged to visit Springfield this fall to hear a stellar lineup of genealogy educators at *Pathways to the Heartland*.

Learn More and Stay Connected

- 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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Graphics available at: <http://fgs2011media.weebly.com/fgs-2011-graphics.html>

Additional speakers and bios available at: <http://fgs.org/2011conference/speakers>

Media Center available at: <http://fgs2011media.weebly.com>

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