



For Immediate Release
June 30, 2011

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

Presenters include noted Utah speakers

June 30, 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.

Many Utah genealogical speakers are among the presenters:

- **Devin Ashby**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is a Project Coordinator for FamilySearch, the largest genealogical organization in the world. Devin has been involved in family history for years and in 2004 he received Bachelor degrees in History and Spanish and the following year earned a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.
- **Timothy Cross**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, has been a Product Manager for the new FamilySearch for six years. Prior to working for the LDS Church, Tim worked in the computer industry for PriceWaterhouse; Booz, Allen, & Hamilton; and Novell. Tim is currently responsible for the API and Backend portions of FamilySearch's Tree. Tim works closely with FamilySearch Affiliates to grow the FamilySearch Development Community.
- **David Dilts**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is a Senior Reference Consultant in U.S. Reference at the Family History Library. He is accredited in LDS Records and German research and has served in ICAPGen and the Utah Genealogical Association.

- **Elaine Hasleton**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is currently a Manager on the FamilySearch Community Catalyst Team and also a Deputy to the FamilySearch Chief Genealogical Officer, David Rencher. She has worked for FamilySearch twenty-five years. Her research specialty is Norwegian and Norwegian-American research.
- **Dean J. Hunter**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, a past president of FGS, recently retired from the Family History Department of the LDS Church where he worked for over 38 years as a Reference Consultant and Senior Reference Consultant in the British reference area, and a Collection Development Specialist.
- **Dan Lawyer**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, has been working for FamilySearch as a senior product manager since 2004. He has been involved in many aspects of FamilySearch and is currently responsible for the FamilySearch.org website. Dan loves working on his own family history and is passionate about helping others see and share the richness in their ancestry.
- **Ransom Love**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is the director of strategic relationships for FamilySearch and has been working in the genealogical market for more than six years.
- **Russell Lynch**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, has an Honors BA in French from the University of Utah and a Masters of Library and Information Science from Brigham Young University. He served as the treasurer for the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) from 2004 to 2008. Previously Russell served as a Director, Associate Vice-President, and President of UGA. He has taught classes on record sources, software products, and research methodology at local, state, and national conferences. Russell works in the Family History Library as a Collection Management Specialist and has worked in the LDS Family and Church History Department since 1985.
- **Geoffrey Morris**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. After serving a two year mission for the LDS - Stockholm Sweden Mission, Geoff graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Utah. Geoff began family history research as a teen when he was mentored by his mother (a native of Sweden) who was at that time accredited in Swedish research. He accepted full time employment at the Family History Library in 2000 as a member of the Scandinavian reference team. Among his work assignments, Geoff has engaged in many archival visits in Sweden and Denmark. He has authored hundreds of pages to the Family Search Wiki, and presents at conferences routinely. Geoff enjoys spending time with his Norwegian-American wife, and their children.
- **David Ouimette**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, manages content strategy at FamilySearch and serves as UGA vice president and National Genealogical

Society director. David authored *Finding Your Irish Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*.

- **Robert Raymond**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is a content strategy analyst for FamilySearch. Robert is a popular speaker and the shadow writer for a top ten, award winning genealogical blog. He is the creator, author and webmaster of an acclaimed family history website where he has published 1,700 pages of information, hundreds of digital images, dozens of personal histories, several maps of his own creation, and numerous articles. Robert holds over a dozen technology patents and holds a Masters Degree in electrical/computer engineering from Brigham Young University where he was honored as a Kimball scholar.
- **David Rencher**, of **Riverton, Utah**, is Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch and a former president of FGS.
- **Pat Richley**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, DearMYRTLE is the nom de plume of Pat Richley, a retired post-secondary software instructor. She is the author of DearMYRTLE's Joy of Genealogy (2006), The Everything Online Genealogy Book (2001), numerous magazine articles, blogs and podcasts. Myrt's current project concerns a friend's WWII experiences in the American Red Cross.
- **Anne Roach**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, has eighteen years of genealogical research experience, is former ICAPGen commissioner, Salt Lake Institute coordinator, and FamilySearch international consultant and community manager.
- **Scott Simkins**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is the Head Conservator at the Family History Library. Scott has trained in conservation and book repair at Brigham Young University and has taken courses at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, as well as at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah. Scott teaches basic preservation and book repair on a regular basis. He has served as Treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers and is a member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.
- **Carol Smith**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, currently serves on the Patron Services team of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is accredited in New England research, and has a degree in Family History from Brigham Young University. She is responsible for all of the patron classes in the Family History Library. She has served as the Utah Genealogical Association President, Vice-president, and on the Board of Directors, as well as working with the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She is Co-chairman of the Conference on Family History and Genealogy held at Brigham Young University, and served on the 2010 NGS Conference Committee.

- **Tamra Stansfield**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is currently employed as a German Research Consultant and the International Floor Patron Services Manager at the Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has worked as a professional genealogist for the past 10 years and is Accredited in German Research through ICAPGen. She lives in Salt Lake City with her husband Jon. They are the parents of six, in-laws of two and grandparents of two.
- **Linda Turner**, of **Salt Lake City, Utah**, is a professional researcher and lecturer, manager of probate research operations, and an online instructor with BYU. She currently is chair of ICAPGen.

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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