



For Immediate Release
June 26, 2011

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

Presenters include noted Virginia 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 Virginia-based genealogical speakers are among the presenters:

- **Thomas Jones**, PhD, of **Fairfax, Virginia**, edits the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, coordinates courses at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and teaches modules at Boston University. Retired from a thirty-year higher-education career, he provides informative and well-organized lectures on genealogical methods with broad application across geographic areas, time periods, and levels of expertise.
- **Marie Varrelman Melchiori**, of Vienna, Virginia, has researched in National Archives military records since 1980, lecturing on them since 1988. She was assistant director of the National Institute on Genealogical Research, 1987-2002.
- **Pamela Boyer Sayre**, of Springfield, Virginia, is coordinator for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research's Techniques and Technology course, and is the former National Genealogical Society's director of education and publications.

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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