

Thomas MacEntee, FGS 2011 National Publicity Chair

## FGS 2011 Conference: Pathways to the Heartland

**F**or its 35th year, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference returns to the Prairie State in 2011—twenty years since its 1981 event in Decatur, Illinois. Springfield—the state capital and the historical home of Abraham Lincoln—will play host to thousands of genealogists and genealogical society members for Pathways to the Heartland, September 7–10, 2011.

If you have attended a previous FGS Conference, you know the excitement of not only learning from many of the top genealogy speakers in the country but also networking and socializing with fellow family historians in a congenial setting.

### Illinois State Genealogical Society

The local host for FGS 2011 is the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS), founded in 1968 in Springfield. Local Conference Chairs and ISGS board members Susie Pope and David Kent Coy will be assisting FGS board members Pat Oxley, D. Joshua Taylor and others with providing a unique and exceptional educational experience for every genealogist.

### Historic Springfield

Established in 1819, Springfield became the state capital in 1837 with the help of a young lawyer and politician named Abraham Lincoln. The sixth largest city in Illinois, it is also the county seat for Sangamon County and is conveniently located at the intersections of Interstates 55 and 72.

While our ancestors may have come to or through Illinois by covered wagon or on foot, other more up-to-date modes of transportation are available to get to the Prairie State:

- **Plane:** Springfield is easily accessible by air via the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport as well as the Lambert-St. Louis Airport which is only 100 miles away.
- **Train:** Amtrak has daily trains from both Chicago and St. Louis, Missouri, which serve Springfield. The train station is just five blocks from the host hotel and convention center.
- **Car:** For those traveling by car, Chicago lies 200 miles northeast of Springfield. St. Louis



*Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield*

and Indianapolis lie 100 miles southwest and 195 miles due east, respectively. And don't forget—historic Route 66 goes right through Springfield!

### Conference

At FGS 2011, *Pathways to the Heartland*, four great days of genealogy and family history will take place beginning Wednesday, September 7 through Saturday, September 10, 2011. During this time you'll be able to attend educational presentations, network with other genealogists, stock up on genealogy books and supplies in the exhibit hall, share a meal with new friends, attend special events and perhaps even get some sleep!

### Venue

Downtown Springfield will serve as the base of all FGS 2011 activities. This city with its small-town character is filled with restaurants, shops and historic sites. From the conference venue it is just a quick walk to the Illinois State Archives as well as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Prairie Capital Convention Center  
1 Convention Center Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701  
[www.springfieldpccc.com/](http://www.springfieldpccc.com/)

Located in downtown Springfield, the Prairie Capital Convention Center will host conference lectures, special events, as well as house an exhibit hall filled with genealogical and historical vendors from across the United States.

Hilton Springfield Hotel  
700 East Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
[www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/hpartners/hpartnerdetail.asp?ID=50](http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/hpartners/hpartnerdetail.asp?ID=50)

Stay at the Springfield Hotel, located just across the street from the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Every room in the newly renovated hotel features a panoramic view of the city of Springfield. Information on rates and rate codes will be available at the conference website [www.fgconference.org](http://www.fgconference.org) and in future issues of FORUM



*Springfield Hilton Hotel*

### Research Opportunities

While attending *Pathways to the Heartland* there will be opportunities to research your ancestors who may have passed through the Prairie State on their way to points West or perhaps even settled in Illinois.

#### **Illinois State Archives**

Margaret Cross Norton Building  
Capitol Complex,  
Springfield, IL 62756 (217) 782-4682 or (217) 524-3930  
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html)

The archives building contains more than 53,000 cubic feet of state governmental records including records relating to the Illinois territory, military service records, vital records, and land sale records.

#### **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**

Library  
112 North Sixth Street

Springfield, IL 62701  
 (217) 558-8844  
[www.alplm.org/library/library.html](http://www.alplm.org/library/library.html)  
 Museum  
 212 North Sixth Street  
 Springfield, IL 62701  
 (217) 782-5764  
[www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html](http://www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html)

The library houses the Agency's collection of more than 12 million items of Illinois history. The museum combines scholarship and showmanship to communicate the amazing life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

In future FORUM issues and on the Conference news blog, we will reveal more places to conduct family history research in the Springfield, Illinois area.

### Program

The National Conference Committee is working hard to put together a program with topics that you won't find at many other regional or even national genealogy conferences. Lecture topics include record types, methodologies, localities, migrations and immigration, and technology. Other events will be sponsored by leading genealogical organizations, including Ancestry.com, Association of Professional Genealogists, FamilySearch, Genealogical Speakers Guild, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and many more.

As with past FGS conferences, *Pathways to the Heartland* will also feature multiple lunches each day and a beautiful banquet with time for networking followed by a featured educational and entertaining speaker.

### Related Activities

- Focus on Societies: In addition to lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, the conference will feature a day dedicated to providing information for leaders and members of genealogical societies interested in managing and developing their organizations in the 21st century.
- Librarians Day: This day is designed for librarians who work with family historians or genealogy reference materials in both public and private libraries, archives, and historical societies.
- APG Professional Management Conference: The Association of Professional Genealogists will present its Professional Management Conference for professional genealogists who work in a variety of jobs.

### Fun for the Family Too!

And for those genealogy "widowers and widows" as well as friends and family who don't always share your passion for family history, there are plenty of places to discover including:

- Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Lincoln Family Pew, First Presbyterian Church
- Lincoln Law Offices
- Historic Homes of Springfield
- Air Combat Museum
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Museum
- Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum
- Korean War National Museum

In addition, there are numerous guided and self-guided tours of Historic Springfield. Learn more about Springfield, the State of Illinois and area tourism at these websites:

- Visit Springfield, Illinois [www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/default.asp](http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/default.asp)
- City of Springfield, Illinois [www.springfield.il.us/](http://www.springfield.il.us/)
- Illinois - Mile After Magnificent Mile [www.enjoyillinois.com/home.aspx](http://www.enjoyillinois.com/home.aspx)

Stay Informed

Between now and September 2011, FGS will make available the most up-to-date information about the FGS 2011 conference through various channels:

- More details will be provided in future issues of FORUM as well at the conference website, <http://www.fgsconference.org>.

- The Conference News Blog, [www.fgsconferenceblog.org](http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org), covers a wide range of conference news, updates, special events, details on speakers, lectures, vendors and exhibitors, luncheons, banquet, parking, travel, and research.

Visit [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) for the complete conference program or to register after December 1, 2010. You will want to join us at the FGS 2011 Conference as we explore *Pathways to the Heartland!*

## Exploring Your Roots Cruise

Presented by: Worldwide Cruise Headquarters WWW.WWCruiseHQ.COM

**Family History Seminars at Sea - from \$696.57 pp double occupancy**

Royal Caribbean *Freedom of the Seas* – June 5-12, 2011 (7-night Eastern Caribbean cruise)

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Royal Caribbean *Explorer of the Seas* – October 22-27, 2011 (5-night Bermuda cruise)

*Let us show you how to have fun and 'Explore' successfully!*

Regardless of whether you are a novice or an experienced family history researcher, the *Exploring Your Roots Cruise* will be an informative learning experience where you will be able to hone your research skills or learn how to get started – all while enjoying a fabulous cruise vacation! Classes will take place only during days at sea – so you can enjoy the beautiful Caribbean Islands or Bermuda at your leisure!

Classes will be conducted by qualified professional genealogists who are anxious to show you their tips and tricks. They bring with them a wealth of information and experience that will help you get the most out of your research. You will learn how to plan your strategy, improve your research skills, use online tools and best of all - get help to tear down those brick walls!

**Seminar Bonus – Ask an Expert!** – Each participant will have a private 30-minute consultation with one of our professional genealogists.

**Call today for reservations and information - availability is limited!**

Lynn Polgar

Worldwide Cruise Headquarters

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WWW.WWCruiseHQ.COM

