

Conference and Program Highlights – FGS 2011

Thomas MacEntee, FGS 2011 National Publicity Chair

Have you registered yet for this year's FGS Conference? Join us for "***Pathways to the Heartland***" 7 – 10 September 2011 in Springfield, Illinois with the Conference local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society. The early bird registration deadline is **1 July 2011** for those wishing to take advantage of a registration discount. The most convenient means of registration is via the FGS 2011 Conference web site at <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/>.

The Program committee has assembled an exciting lineup of speakers for this year's conference with topics of interest for genealogists and family historians at every level—from beginner to professional. The FGS 2011 Conference website contains complete information on the lectures and speakers for this year's conference.

Focus on Societies

We believe that the Focus on Societies program is filled with invaluable information and will provide opportunities for multi-directional communications between FGS, its Member Societies, and one another.

This year's Focus on Societies program begins with "***How Will Our Society Survive? Do We Alter, Mutate, Modify, Shift or Switch?***" presented by David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for [FamilySearch](#), who will discuss the challenges and opportunities that genealogical and historical societies face. The day continues with the popular ***Delegate 101*** panel discussion with FGS officers and board members, followed with 27 sessions that address: society organization; recruiting and working with volunteers; developing educational programs; organizing and managing projects; financial considerations and fundraising; outreach to the community and the world; using technology; publishing in both print and electronic formats; and preservation. There also are brainstorming sessions and focus group discussions planned.

We'll break for a great luncheon at which people can network with one another. We'll also hold a short ***FGS Business Meeting***, and enjoy a presentation by Ransom Love, Senior Vice President of [FamilySearch](#), entitled "***Community Connection: Why Record Custodians Need to Be Working on a Global Basis.***" There will also be time for attendees to share news and brag about their societies in a "***Shout Out!***"

Librarians' Day

The annual Librarians' Day will be held on Tuesday 6 September 2011 and is sponsored by [ProQuest](#). Tickets are \$10 (includes sessions and lunch). Designed for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals serving family history researchers, this year's Librarians' Day features an exciting lineup:

- **Audrey Collins** - *The National Archives of the United Kingdom*

- **Curt Witcher** - *Digital Lincoln: The Abraham Lincoln Collection at the Allen County (IN) Public Library*
- **Tim Pinnick** - *Using the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's Newspaper Collection to Assist Your African American Clientele*
- **Panel Discussion** - Join representatives from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Historical Collection, the Newspaper Microfilm Collection, the Illinois State Archives, and the Illinois State Historical Society presenting insights and information on their specific collections.

In the Heartland

As in the past, the FGS 2011 Conference features sessions focusing on research and records for the area in which the conference is being held. This year's track entitled ***In the Heartland*** highlights research and resources in the Midwest region of the United States including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri and more. Noted presenters include Curt Witcher, Tony Burroughs and Lou Szucs.

Program Highlights

One look at this year's Conference program and you'll be overwhelmed with the number of different tracks available over the course of the four days.

- **APG Professional Management Conference:** This year the APG PMC is being incorporated with the general Conference sessions. The track includes sessions geared towards professional genealogists and building business and marketing skills.
- **Beginnings and Beliefs:** The track includes sessions that focus on church records as well as different religions and cultures.
- **Family History Essentials:** Covers the basics and how to use court, land and vital records. Look for "***Discovering the Goldmine of Knowledge in Court Records***" sponsored by [FamilySearch](#).
- **Focus on Societies:** There are actually six different tracks including Organization, Program, Projects, Reaching Out, Technology & Publishing and one sponsored by [FamilySearch](#).
- **Genealogical Speakers Guild:** If you are a genealogy speaker or would like to learn more about what it takes to deliver genealogy presentations to an audience, this track sponsored by GSG is for you.
- **ICAPGen:** The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists is sponsoring four different sessions on accreditation for genealogists.
- **Migration and Immigration:** An entire track sponsored by [FamilySearch](#), here you'll find sessions on locating ancestors who either arrived on our nation's shores or migrated across the great expanse.

- **Our Military Ancestors:** From the Indian Wars up to World War II, these sessions help you learn more about those ancestors who served in the military.
- **Places to Discover:** A special track focusing on several unique research repositories, all located in Illinois and Missouri.
- **Records, Records, Records:** If there is a type of record used for genealogy you can be certain there's a session in this track to cover it. Includes sessions sponsored by [NARA](#).
- **Strategies and Techniques:** This is the "how to" track and some of the best presentations you'll ever see are here, including "**The Jones Jinx: Tracing Common Surnames**" by Dr. Thomas Jones Ph.D., CG, CGL. Sessions also include those sponsored by [BCG](#), [FamilySearch](#), and [NEHGS](#).
- **Technology:** Learn more about the latest technologies in use in the genealogy field. Includes sessions sponsored by [Ancestry.com](#) and a special technology track sponsored by [FamilySearch](#).
- **They Came From:** A focus on emigration, where ancestors came from and the reasons why they left their countries.
- **Workshops:** This track contains a variety of workshops focusing on research plans, writing your family history and more.
- **Writing and Sharing:** And once you've done your research, learn the various formats you can use to write a book or share the data with family and friends.

Luncheons

There are 13 different luncheons scheduled during the FGS 2011 Conference covering a variety of topics (Civil War, Technology, Military Research, and more) by noted genealogy personalities including J. Mark Lowe, David Rencher, Pat Richley-Erickson, Kenyatta Berry and others. Make sure you [purchase your luncheon tickets](#) during the Registration process – some of these will sell out quickly!

Special Events

Besides the valuable educational sessions during the FGS 2011 Conference, attendees will have many opportunities to participate in special events including:

- **Conference Keynote Address:** During the Conference keynote address on Thursday, 7 September 2011, David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, shares his insights into the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) (NARA) and family history. Mr. Ferriero previously served as the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the respected New York Public Libraries. He has also worked at the libraries of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At NYPL, he was in charge of collection strategy; conservation; digital experience; reference and research services; and education, programming, and exhibitions.

- **Old Fashioned Prairie Social:** Presented by Conference local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society, come and immerse yourself in the past and present of Illinois. President and Mrs. Lincoln will be on hand to greet you to the rousing music of a Civil War band. The Lincolns will visit with you during the evening as you enjoy period music and indulge in sumptuous desserts. Match wits in a genealogy quiz game, competing as an individual or a society group. Perhaps President Lincoln will even answer a question or two. Before the evening ends, be sure to spin the prize wheel for a chance to win something fantastic.
- **FGS 35th Anniversary Celebration:** Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Federation of Genealogical Societies during the FGS 2011 Conference! The main celebration will take place on Friday evening, 9 September 2011. Join us for a fun-filled evening of entertainment, learning, and celebration as we recognize the past, present, and future of FGS and its service to the genealogical community.
 - **35th Anniversary Reception:** Gather with current and former board members, presidents, and other officers of the Federation of Genealogical Societies as we discover the proud history of FGS. (Cash bar)
 - **The Lincoln Family Album:** presented by special guest, noted Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. Harold Holzer is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. A prolific writer and lecturer, and frequent guest on television, he was appointed co-chairman of the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by President Clinton and in 2008 received the National Humanities Medal from President Bush.
 - **Grand Prize Drawing:** your chance to win the "Genealogists Dream Vacation," a week-long research trip to Salt Lake City, Utah for two including round trip airfare, accommodations, and other items (sponsored by FamilySearch) valued at over \$2,700.
 - **Celebration Dinner:** network with other Conference attendees during dinner at a table hosted by a current (or past) FGS board member.
 - **You Know You're a Genealogist If...** : join Conference speakers, friends of FGS, and attendees for a humorous look at some familiar traits of genealogists

Tickets: \$39 (includes reception, dinner, special presentations, and five door prize tickets for the Grand Prize Drawing). Remember to purchase your tickets for this event when registering for the FGS 2011 Conference since the event is sure to sell out!

Help Us Publicize the FGS 2011 Conference

As in past years, FGS member societies can help publicize the upcoming FGS 2011 Conference "Pathways to the Heartland" through their newsletters, websites and other publications and also be eligible to win a full registration for the FGS 2012 Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

FGS has supplied ready-made ads and articles on its website <http://www.fgs.org> under the FGS 2011 Media Center category or they may be obtained by sending a request to fgs2011@gmail.com.

Contest Details

- The FGS 2011 Publicity Contest (“Contest”) is designed to help promote FGS conferences, specifically the education and activities associated with the FGS 2011 Conference.
- The prize: **a full registration and syllabus (on CD) for the FGS 2012 Conference**. The winning society can use the prize for any purpose including sending one of its delegates to the FGS 2012 Conference, using the prize as part of a society fundraiser, etc.
- To be eligible, a genealogical or historical society must be a 2011 member of FGS in good standing. The membership year begins 1 January 2011. Both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Illinois State Genealogical Society are not eligible to participate in the Contest.
- To enter, a participating society must publicize the FGS 2011 Conference using qualifying articles or advertisements. Participating societies are strongly encouraged to utilize the ready-made articles and ads at the FGS 2011 Media Center.
- A qualifying article or ad can be published in the participating society's website, blog, electronic newsletter or printed quarterly, journal, or newsletter.
- A qualifying article must be at least 100 words in length for both print and online media. A qualifying ad must be at least 1/8th of a page in size for print media and at least 150 x 150 pixels for online media. Online media ads must be visible for at least 14 days. Qualifying articles and ads must have a link to the FGS 2011 Conference website at <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference>.
- To enter, a participating society must supply the full URL link or a copy of the page displaying the date of publication via email. Email the URL link or a scanned copy of print media to the National Publicity Chair at fgs2011@gmail.com using "FGS 2011 Publicity Contest" in the subject line.
- If a qualifying ad or article appears in more than one issue or more than one web location simultaneously, the participating society will receive one additional Contest entry for each publication appearance. Be sure to submit your information to the National Publicity Chair for each entry.
- All Contest entries must be submitted by 12:00 am on 15 August 2011 to be eligible for the drawing.
- The winner will be announced at the FGS 2011 Conference in Springfield, IL on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 during the Focus on Societies Luncheon. The Contest winner information will be posted on the FGS website, FGS Voice blog

and newsletter, and in the FGS FORUM along with a link to the member society's website.

Call for Volunteers

There is a need for volunteers since a conference of this size is a huge undertaking. As an incentive, **volunteers can earn credits towards FGS 2011 Conference registration discounts** based upon the number of hours worked. If interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Heinrich, Volunteer Co-Chair, at 2011volunteers!SGSconference@gmail.com for more information.

Stay Informed

Between now and September 2011, FGS will make certain that FGS members and Conference attendees have the most up-to-date information about the FGS 2011 Conference available through various channels:

- More details will be available in the next issue of FORUM as well at the FGS 2011 Conference website, <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/>.
- The **FGS Conference News Blog**, <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 the FGS 2011 Conference page at <http://www.facebook.com/FGS2011> on Facebook and click the Like button. You'll receive periodic news items about the FGS 2011 Conference.
- For Twitter users, please follow **@fgs2011** at <http://www.twitter.com/fgs011> and make sure you use the **#fgs2011** hashtag for your tweets!

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Visit <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/> for the complete FGS 2011 Conference program or to register. You will not want to miss the FGS 2011 Conference as we explore *Pathways to the Heartland!*

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