

The Final Lap – FGS 2011 Conference in Springfield

Thomas MacEntee, FGS 2011 National Publicity Chair

In just a few weeks, genealogists and family historians from all over the United States and as far away as Scotland and Israel will arrive in Springfield, Illinois for this year's Federation of Genealogical Societies' Conference co-sponsored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society. *Pathways to the Heartland* will attract notable speakers and educators in the genealogical community who will provide top-notch educational opportunities for all levels of genealogists.

Whether by car, train, bus, or airplane, here is your guide to making sure you are "all systems go" for what promises to be one of the best genealogical events of 2011.

A Check Under the Hood – Are Your Registered for FGS 2011?

Seems silly to ask such a basic question, but make sure you are registered for this year's conference. The most convenient means of registration is via the **FGS 2011 Conference Web Site** at <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/> and click on **Registration**. You can register online or by mail.

Missing something? Don't forget that when registering, select the workshops and luncheons as well as special events that you want to attend. While you can always return to the online registration site using your PIN and add more items, some of these events are sure to sell out quickly. Make sure you get your tickets now!

The Journey - Get Your Kicks at FGS 2011

As you make your journey to the center of the Prairie State, don't forget that along the way there are plenty of research opportunities including:

- **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**
<<http://www.alplm.org/library/library.html>>
- **Allen County Public Library**
<<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>>
- **Illinois State Archives**
<<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html>>
- **Illinois State Genealogical Society**
<<http://www.ilgensoc.org>>

www.fgs.org
Get your
kicks at
FGS 2011.
ROUTE
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A Conference
for the
Nation's
Genealogists
September 7-10, 2011
Springfield, Illinois
Learn. Connect. Discover.

- **IRAD University of Illinois Springfield**
<<http://www.uis.edu/archives/>>
- **Missouri History Museum**
<<http://www.mohistory.org/lrc-home/>>
- **National Archives – Great Lakes**
<<http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/archives/>>
- **National Personnel Records Center**
<<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>>
- **Newberry Library**
<<http://www.newberry.org>>
- **Sangamon Valley Collection**
<<http://www.lincolnlibrary.info/research/sangamonValley.html>>
- **Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center**
<<http://www.augustana.edu/x13856.xml>>
- **Wisconsin Historical Society**
<<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>>

Destination Education – FGS 2011 Program Highlights

FGS 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 at <<http://fgs.org/2011conference/program/>>.

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
- Beginnings and Beliefs
- Family History Essentials
- Focus on Societies
- Genealogical Speakers Guild
- ICAPGen
- Migration and Immigration
- Our Military Ancestors
- Places to Discover
- Records, Records, Records
- Strategies and Techniques

- Technology
- They Came From
- Workshops
- Writing and Sharing

FGS 2011 Special Events

Packed into this annual conference are many special events and opportunities including:

- **Librarian's Day:** An entire day of seminars designed for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals serving family history researchers. See <<http://fgs.org/2011conference/librariansday/>> for more information.
- **Focus on Societies:** Join us for a day of sessions dedicated to genealogy society management with a special focus on technology and marketing. Visit <<http://fgs.org/2011conference/focus/>> to learn more.
- **Luncheons:** Over 12 different luncheons 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.
- **Conference Keynote Address:** David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, will share his insights into the National Archives and Records Administration <<http://www.archives.gov/>> (NARA) and family history.
- **Old Fashioned Prairie Social:** Local host Illinois State Genealogical Society <<http://www.ilgensoc.org/>>, invites you to 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.
- **FGS 35th Anniversary Celebration:** Help celebrate our 35th Anniversary on Friday evening, 9 September 2011 <<http://fgs.org/2011conference/celebration/>>. The event includes a reception, a celebration dinner and ***The Lincoln Family Album*** presented by special guest, noted Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. And don't miss the Grand Prize Drawing with your chance to win the "Genealogists Dream Vacation."

Stretch Your Legs – Visit Historic Springfield!

As if the educational and social events available all week aren't enough, there is plenty to do and see in the Springfield area. Places to discover include:

- **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**
<<http://www.nps.gov/liho/index.htm>>
- **Lincoln Law Offices**
<<http://www.oldstatecapitol.org/office.htm>>

- **Lincoln Tomb**
<http://www.state.il.us/hpa/hs/lincoln_tomb.htm>
- **Historic Homes of Springfield**
<http://www.pasfieldhouse.com/tours/historic_springfield.php>
- **Air Combat Museum**
<<http://www.aircombatmuseum.org/>>
- **Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Museum**
<<http://www.duvcw.org/headquarters.html>>
- **Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum**
<<http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/hpartners/hpartnerdetail.asp?id=100>>
- **Museum of Springfield History**
<<http://www.museumofspringfieldhistory.com/>>
- **National Museum of Surveying**
<http://www.surveyhistory.org/national_museum_of_surveying.htm>
- **Shea's Gas Station Route 66 Museum**
<<http://www.oldgas.com/info/sheasroute66.html>>

Last Minute Details

Every trip is filled with little details as part of the planning process. Here are some items to keep in mind:

- **Conference Volunteers Still Needed** - 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 the ISGS Office, 217-789-1968 or email 2011volunteersISGSconference@gmail.com for more information.
- **Ride Share** – FGS has partnered with RideBuzz to provide a ride sharing forum online. Visit <<http://www.ridebuzz.org/events-group/fgsisgs-2011-conference-12865.html>> to learn more.
- **FGS 2011 Publicity Contest** - As in past years, FGS member societies can help publicize the upcoming conference 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://fgs.org/2011conference/media/>> or they may be obtained by sending a request to fgs2011@gmail.com.

Stay Informed with the FGS 2011 Conference GPS!

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

- 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 Facebook 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** hash tag for your tweets!

See You In Springfield!

There is much to do and see at FGS 2011 and in the Springfield area. We look forward to seeing you in September!

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