

Thomas MacEntee, FGS National Publicity Chair

FGS 2011: Springfield, Illinois

If you haven't already heard, the 2010 FGS Conference in Knoxville was a huge success. A special thanks to the folks at the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society who helped make this happen. Throughout the week participants not only attended workshops; lunches and events, but also shopped with vendors at the Exhibit Hall, networked with fellow genealogists and were even able to "Come Sit a Spell" as well as visit the Museum of Appalachia.

Now it is time to mark your calendar for the 2011 FGS Conference which will be held in Springfield, Illinois September 7–10, 2011. The conference local host is the Illinois State Genealogical Society. The state of Illinois is very important to many family history researchers since so many ancestors came through the Prairie State especially as they migrated westward. Join us in *Pathways to the Heartland* which will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Details are available at www.fgsconference.org.

Hotel

Hilton Springfield Hotel
700 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 789-1530

Stay at the Hilton Springfield Hotel, located less than a block from the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield. Every room in the newly renovated hotel features a panoramic view of the city of Springfield.

• Online: use the following link to ensure you are booking online at the FGS conference rate:

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFHHF-FGS-20110905/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

• Phone: (800) HILTONS or (217) 789-1530 and state that you want the group rate for the Federation of Genealogical Societies. The group code is FGS.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Springfield Hilton for September 5, 2011 - September 12, 2011. Reservations at the special room rate will be available until August 15, 2011 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Amenities at the Springfield Hilton include:

- Restaurants, full service Starbucks, barbershop, florist, gift shop all on premises
- Business center
- Exercise facility and pool
- Valet parking available
- Diagonally across from the Prairie Capital Convention Center
- 2 1/2 blocks from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and from most historic sites as well as many shops and restaurants

Area Repositories

Are you one of the many genealogists who enjoy combining a little research with a conference trip? Illinois and surrounding states have many facilities where you can discover more about persons who lived in those areas. 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.

While some of the archives and repositories listed are in Springfield and even within walking



distance of the conference venue and hotel, within several hours drive of Springfield are other superb research facilities in surrounding states that you might visit as you drive to the conference or on your way home.

Springfield Repositories

Illinois State Archives

Margaret Cross Norton Building
Capitol Complex
Springfield, IL 62756
(217) 782-4682

Hours: Mon – Fri 8 am – 4:30 pm

<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

112 North Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-8844

Hours: Mon – Fri 9 am – 5 pm

<http://www.alplm.org/library/library.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.



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

One amazing resource is the Illinois newspaper holdings available on microfilm. Use this link to search available titles: <http://www.illinoishistory.gov/lib/newspaper.htm>.

Illinois Regional Archives Depository – University of Illinois Springfield

Brookens Library, Room 144
University of Illinois at Springfield
One University Plaza, MS BRK 140
Springfield IL 62703-5407
(217) 206-6520

Hours: Mon – Fri 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

<http://www.uis.edu/archives/>

County and municipal records dating from 1817 onward, collected from 14 central Illinois counties: Bond, Cass, Christian, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott. Some of these historic records include:

- Circuit and Chancery Court record books, dockets, and case files
- Wills, estate inventory and probate case files
- Poll books and election returns
- Deed records
- Tax records
- Birth, death, marriage, and divorce records
- County commissioners' minutes



- Naturalization papers
- Cemetery records
- School records

Sangamon Valley Collection

Lincoln Library, Public Library of Springfield
326 South 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 753-4900

Hours: Mon – Wed 10 am – 8pm, Thur 10 am - 6 pm,
Fri 10am – 1pm, Sat 10 am - 5 pm

<http://www.lincolnlibrary.info/research/sangamonValley.html>



The Sangamon Valley Collection (SVC) provides in-depth resources for the study of Springfield, Illinois, Sangamon County and the eleven adjacent counties. The collection, established in 1970, contains materials from the past and present. Examples of items to be found here are: photographs, city and county directories, high school yearbooks, city and county documents, long-range planning reports and surveys, histories and maps. The staff maintains a computer index of the *State Journal-Register* and the *Illinois Times* back to 1981. Articles of local interest are indexed. Search the index at <http://hip.rpls.ws:81/#focus>.

SVC is a favorite haunt of genealogists who use the extensive Sangamon County Obituary File. Genealogical materials are not limited to the local area. For example, family histories from Virginia and German immigrant passenger lists can be found.

Chicago-Area Repositories

For those of you visiting Chicago—a three-five hour trip by car or train—there are numerous research facilities available.

National Archives – Great Lakes Region

7358 South Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60629-5898
(773) 581-7816

Hours: Mon – Fri 8 am – 4:15 pm
2nd Sat – 8 am – 4:15 pm

<http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/archives/>

The National Archives at Chicago has more than 85,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from 1800 to the 1990s, including textual records and non-textual records such as maps and photographs from Federal courts and some 85 Federal agencies in: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.

Newberry Library

60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 943-9090

Hours: Tue. – Fri. 9am - 5pm & Sat 9am - 1pm

<http://www.newberry.org>

- Genealogies: The Newberry has over 17,000 published genealogies.
- Local Histories: The local history collection includes county, city, town, church, and other local histories from all regions of the United States, as well as from Canada and the British Isles.
- Census: The Newberry's federal census microfilm holdings are complete for the entire country 1790–1850, and for all Midwestern states through 1880. The Library holds census indexes for all states through 1850 with indexes for most states in 1860. State census holdings include 1855 and 1865 Illinois, 1905 Wisconsin, and substantial but incomplete New York census for 1855, 1875, 1905, and 1925. Canadian census holdings are complete for Quebec 1831–1891 and for Ontario 1851–1871.

• **Genealogical Source Material:** Published indexes, abstracts or transcriptions of pre-twentieth century records of birth, death, and marriage, as well as probate, deed, court, tax, and cemetery records form an important segment of the Newberry's genealogy collection.

• **Military Records:** The Newberry collects roster and pension reference works covering the colonial wars through the Civil War. Some materials on the Spanish American War and World War One are also available. The Newberry's collection of Civil War unit histories is one of the country's best.

• **Periodicals:** The Library has complete runs of many state and county historical and genealogical publications, as well as important regional and national journals such as the *New England Genealogical and Historical Register*, *American Genealogist*, and *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

Augustana College

639 38th Street

Rock Island, IL 61201

(309) 794-7204

Hours: Mon – Friday 9 am – 12:00 pm and 1 pm – 4:30 pm

<http://www.augustana.edu/x13856.xml>

The Swenson Center is a national archives and research institute providing resources for the study of Swedish immigration to North America, the communities the immigrants established, and the role the immigrants and their descendants have played in American life. This is achieved by promoting and initiating academic research in the field and by collecting and cataloging Swedish-American archival and library materials. Another major role for the Center is to assist people researching their Swedish-American family history.

St. Louis, Missouri Repositories

Only a 90-minute drive away, many conference attendees may decide to fly into St. Louis' Lambert Field or drive through St. Louis on the way to Springfield.

Missouri History Museum

Library & Research Center

Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park

St. Louis, Missouri

(314) 746-4599

Hours: Tues – Friday, 12 pm – 5 pm, Sat. 10 am – 5 pm

<http://www.mohistory.org/lrc-home/>

The Missouri History Museum Library holds more than 90,000 books, periodicals, newspapers, maps and microfilms, including:

- St. Louis-area newspapers
- Fire insurance maps for St. Louis, 1870–1941; many other maps and atlases
- Business and trade catalogs
- St. Louis city directories, 1821–1980

Subject strengths include:

- St. Louis people, places and events, neighborhood history, urban development, ethnic culture, politics, architecture, business, religion, art and education
- Western fur trade, travel and exploration, river transportation
- Missouri history to 1900
- Native American history and culture
- Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904 St. Louis World's Fair)

National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR)

9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
(314) 801-0800

Hours: Mon – Friday, 7:30 am – 3:45 pm

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.) NPRC (MPR) also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law.

Indiana Repositories

Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
(260) 421-1200

Hours: Mon – Thur 9 am – 9 pm

Fri – Sat 9 am – 6 pm, Sun 12 pm – 5 pm

<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>

This renowned collection includes more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche. As a cooperating partner with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the department can provide access to more than 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical and historical records for a small handling fee per roll of film requested.

Wisconsin Repositories

For those conference attendees arriving from the north, here are some research opportunities during your trip.

Wisconsin Historical Society

816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 264-6535

Hours: Mon – Thur 8 am – 9 pm, Fri – Sat 8 am – 5 pm

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

The Society was founded in 1846, two years before Wisconsin became the 30th state, and it ranks as one of the largest, most active, and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. The databases and collections include:

- American Journeys
- Civil War Roster of Volunteers
- Civil War Veterans, 1885, 1895, 1905
- McCormick-International Harvester Digital Collection

Repositories and Their Websites

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.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/>

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.lincolnlbrary.info/research/sangamonValley.html>

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

<http://www.augustana.edu/x13856.xml>

Wisconsin Historical Society

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

- Oral Histories: Wisconsin Survivors of the Holocaust
- Register of Historic Places
- Turning Points in Wisconsin History
- Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory
- Wisconsin Corporations Index
- Wisconsin County Histories
- Wisconsin Genealogy Index
- Wisconsin Historical Collections
- Wisconsin Historical Images
- Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles

Other FGS 2011 Events, Activities and News

David S. Ferriero, AOTUS – Keynote Speaker

In 2009, David S. Ferriero was confirmed as the 10th Archivist of the United States (AOTUS). FGS is privileged to announce that Mr. Ferriero will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2011 conference in Springfield, Illinois on Thursday morning, September 8, 2011. 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.

FGS 35th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, September 9, 2011, come celebrate our 35 year history with noted Lincoln Scholar Harold Holzer as our guest speaker. 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.

In addition, there will be a grand prize drawing for an exceptional prize donated by Family Search. Each time you purchase a meal as part of your conference registration (lunches, dinners, and banquets), you will receive one ticket for the grand prize drawing. And you will receive three grand prize drawing tickets when you purchase a ticket for the 35th Anniversary Celebration. Remember to purchase your tickets for this event when registering for the FGS 2011 conference since the event is sure to sell out!

Farewell Brunch / Sunday Activities

Join fellow genealogists for a buffet style Farewell Brunch at the Hilton Springfield on Sunday, September 11, 2011. The menu will be posted on the FGS Conference blog as well as the FGS website. You may register your non-genealogist friends and family for this brunch and door prizes will also be given away.

Also, don't forget that the hotel rates are good for Sunday night, too! So watch for info about various Sunday activities include visits to churches, museums, historic sites, and libraries in the Springfield area.

Call for Volunteers

There is a need for volunteers since a conference of this size is a huge undertaking. If interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Heinrich, Volunteer Co-Chair, at ISGSConference@comcast.net for more information.

Help Us Publicize the Conference

Genealogical societies can help publicize the FGS 2011 conference through their newsletters, websites and other publications and also be eligible to win a registration for the 2012 Conference

in Birmingham, Alabama. FGS has supplied ready-made ads and articles on its website <http://www.fgs.org> under the conference category “FGS 2011 Press Kit” or they may be obtained by sending a request to fgs2011@gmail.com. Watch the FGS Conference blog, the FGS website, and the FGS Voice for further contest details.

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 future issues of FORUM as well at the conference website, <http://www.fgsconference.org>.

- The Conference News Blog, 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 <http://www.fgs.org> for the complete conference program or to register after December 1, 2010. You will not want to miss 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)

 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

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