



## NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Press Release

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### **DISCOVER THE JOYS OF GENEALOGY WITH HELEN F. M. LEARY, CG (EMERITUS), FASG, FNGS**

ARLINGTON, VA, JANUARY 15, 2010: The National Genealogical Society announces a series of interviews with Helen Leary, whose recognition in the field of genealogy includes Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and Fellow of the National Genealogical Society. See the interviews at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) at the Videos and Publications tab.

Helen Leary's many scholarly publications include the seminal *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* study "Sally Hemings's Children: A Genealogical Analysis of the Evidence." Hear Leary discuss the research and analytical techniques she used to arrive at the conclusion that Thomas Jefferson was the probable father of several of Sally Hemings's children. Find a copy of her article adjacent to the video at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) at the Videos and Publications tab.

In her interview Helen talks about the value of bringing our ancestors back into memory. "I once studied the history of

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genealogy and the rise and fall of genealogy through the ages. And I discovered that the renaissance in genealogy comes when there is economic unrest. Somehow when our economic life begins to shake, it's like being in an earthquake. We don't know exactly where we stand. But it's comforting to know who our people were and, you know, as one person said, 'you don't know where you're going for sure if you don't know where you've been and where you've come from ...' I think people right now are just unsure of who they are and where they are going and what's going to happen."

Other video segments include how Leary became a genealogist as well as stories about her family and the importance of close connections with extended family today. In "Stories from My Research" she talks about how tiny and mysterious clues can reveal family relationships.

While visiting the National Genealogical Society website at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) you may also view the documentary *Paths to Your Past* produced by award-winning cinematographer Allen Moore and filmed in part at the 2009 Family History Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. More video clips from the conference will be added throughout 2010.

The National Genealogical Society was founded in 1903 and is the largest national organization for all family researchers, including beginner, intermediate and professional genealogists, interested in expanding their research skills and preserving their family history for future generations.