



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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National Genealogical Society 2016 Family History Conference Fact Sheet

The National Genealogical Society (NGS)

- The National Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1903. The National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia, based non-profit is the premier U.S. genealogical society with a national focus that provides excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and networking opportunities for genealogists of all skill levels, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian.

The NGS Family History Conference Background

- Since 1978, NGS has held an annual, educational family history national conference. The 2016 NGS Family History Conference in Ft. Lauderdale will be its thirty-eighth conference.
- The conference rotates to different geographic regions and is usually held in May to allow maximum access to a geographically diverse membership. NGS four-day conferences offer a balance of instruction in broad research themes that appeal to a wide audience and specialized topics and research techniques targeted to the locale or region of the conference.
- In recent years, NGS conferences have been held in Las Vegas, Richmond, St. Charles, Salt Lake City, Charleston, and Cincinnati. Typically, more than 2,000 attended these conferences, which averaged more than 80 exhibitors and 175 lectures.
- NGS Family History conferences offer numerous presentations in every time slot. Most lectures last one hour including ten minutes of Q&A. Attendees may also hear speakers at daily meal events, so in four days an attendee may listen to more than twenty-five lectures given by some of the most skilled and well-known genealogists in the country.
- Attending an NGS Family History Conference gives genealogists of all skill levels the opportunity to learn from leading genealogists and also to meet them and network with

For Generations Past, Present, and Future

fellow genealogists, family history researchers, local historians, writers, publishers, and developers and suppliers of genealogical materials.

National Genealogical Society 2016 Family History Conference Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time

- The NGS Family History Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, includes four full days of lectures and networking meal events that feature nationally known genealogical speakers. Learn more at the NGS website, http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info.
- Conference Venue: Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33316
- When: Wednesday through Saturday, 4–7 May 2016
- Pre-Conference Events will take place on Tuesday, 3 May, including a Librarians' Day program; the Board for Certification of Genealogists® (BCG) Education Fund workshop, "Putting Skills to Work"; a Miami-Dade Library Research Trip; and the Fort Lauderdale Historic Area Tour.
- Pre-Registration began 1 December 2015 and lasts until 22 April 2016. After that date, attendees may register only on-site at the conference.
- Local Host Society: Florida State Genealogical Society, Inc.

Conference Program

- The 2016 NGS Family History Conference Program has been developed for genealogists and family historians who have a common desire to learn how to find more information about their ancestors—no matter where they originated.
- Skill Levels: The conference program offers lectures for all skill levels of research experience.
- Lecture Tracks: This year NGS offers more than twenty lecture track themes including the BCG Skillbuilding workshop; women; DNA; Jewish; Gulf Coast and Caribbean; African American, New York research, religion; Florida military; and courthouse research.
- Lecture Topics: The NGS 2016 Family History Conference features 180 lecture topics including "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives," "Cool Tools for the Cemetery,"

“Segregated in Death – Black Cemeteries in the South,” and “The Gulf Coast and Caribbean during the American Revolution.”

- **Special Workshops:** Among the special workshops offered is a three-hour workshop on chromosome mapping, an all morning Youth Camp on Saturday for kids eight through sixteen and, on Tuesday, a full-day pre-conference workshop, “Putting Skills to Work,” in which participants will learn skills and research standards needed by all genealogists.
- **Speakers:** More than 100 experienced lecturers are scheduled. Among the most highly recognized experts are Elizabeth Shown Mills, CGSM, CGLSM, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, the longtime editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ)* and author of 500+ publications including *Evidence Explained* and *Professional Genealogy*, and Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, author, educator, researcher; teacher at Boston University, IGHR, and SLIG; and editor of the *NGSQ* since 2002.

Special Events

- The NGS Banquet, Friday, 6 May, 7:00 p.m. (cash bar 6:00–7:00 p.m.), features David Rencher, AC, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, the Chief Genealogical Officer (CGO) for FamilySearch, a noted national speaker, and a past president of FGS.
- The NGS Luncheon, Saturday, 7 May, 12:15 p.m., features Michael Hait, CG, a full-time genealogist whose specialties include Maryland and African American genealogy.
- NGS Annual Meeting, Saturday, 7 May, 5:15 p.m., offers occasion to hear the latest updates concerning publications, member benefits, genealogy courses, affiliate programs, video archives, and more from NGS President, Jordan Jones as well as the election of the Board of Directors

Luncheons

- Eleven sponsoring organizations offer a selection of luncheons daily, each featuring a speaker on a topic relevant to the sponsoring society or organization. These sponsoring organizations are Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), BCG, FamilySearch, Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH), Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG) and International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISFHWE), New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the National Institute on Genealogical Research Alumni Association (NIGRAA), NGS, the New

York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), and Georgia Genealogical Society. Advance purchase required.

Conference Tours, Tuesday, 3 May 2016

Sales close 22 April 2016. Conference registration is not required to participate in these pre-conference events.

- Ft. Lauderdale Historic Area Tour, 1:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. \$65 per person

Take a leisurely ride along the New River, Fort Lauderdale's first highway, on a narrated Water Taxi ride with stops at the iconic venues Fort Lauderdale History Center and Stranahan House. We will then hop on a bus to Bonnet House. Explore historic homes of early 20th century pioneer families through docent led tours, providing a glimpse into the history of the area and Fort Lauderdale's past. This tour will accommodate most individuals who can enter a bus with limited assistance; however, extensive walking is required.

- Miami-Dade Library Research Trip, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. \$50 per person

Located in the heart of downtown Miami, the Miami-Dade Library (<http://www.mdpls.org/>) offers a number of special collections including the Cuban Collection (materials about Cuba and Cuban immigration); Florida and Romer Photograph Collections (on Florida with special emphasis on South Florida); Government Documents; the Genealogy Department with a collection of City Directories from 1860 through 1935 for a number of major cities; and much more. HistoryMiami (<http://www.historymiami.org/>), a premier cultural institution with a museum and an Archives and Research Center, is located next door. There researchers can search digital photos, manuscripts, books, publications, and 1.1 million images including prints, postcards, stereographs, etc. documenting the Miami region, South Florida, and the Caribbean.

This all-day research opportunity will accommodate most individuals who can enter a bus with limited assistance. Bus transportation is included; lunch is on your own.

Exhibit Hall

- More than eighty exhibitors and vendors will offer genealogical goods and services for the duration of the conference in the Exhibit Hall.
- The Exhibit Hall is free to the public. No conference registration is required to enter, browse, or purchase.
- Exhibitors at the four-day conference event include Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast.com, MyHeritage, and the National Genealogical Society.
- The Exhibit Hall opens at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 May, and closes at 5:30 p.m. that day. It will be open Thursday–Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. except Saturday, when it will close at 3:00 p.m.

Media Center

- There will be an area in the Exhibit Hall open to all press, including print and broadcast media and social media press.
- For additional information, contact Erin Shifflett, from the National Genealogical Society, at eshifflett@ngsgenealogy.org.
- Also, you may visit the NGS website at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info.

The words Certified Genealogist are a registered certification mark, and the designations CG, CGL and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®.