



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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National Genealogical Society 2017 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 2017 NGS Family History Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, will be its thirty-ninth 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 Fort Lauderdale, 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 fellow genealogists, family history researchers, local historians, writers, publishers, and developers and suppliers of genealogical materials.

National Genealogical Society 2017 Family History Conference: Family History Lives Here

- The NGS Family History Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, includes four full days of lectures and networking meal events that feature nationally known genealogical speakers. Learn more at the NGS website, <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>.
- Conference Venue: Raleigh Convention Center, 500 S. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC, 27601
- When: Wednesday through Saturday, 10-13 May 2017
- Pre-Conference Events will take place on Tuesday, 9 May, including a Librarians' Day program; the Board for Certification of Genealogists® (BCG) Education Fund workshop, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Research Tour, Durham Day Tour, Raleigh Day Tour, and Downtown Raleigh at Night.
- Registration Opens: 1 December 2016 and lasts until 27 April 2017. After that date, attendees may register only on-site at the conference.
- Local Host Society: North Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.

Conference Program

- The 2017 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; DNA; Technology; North Carolina; Regional Movement; African American; Native American; Records and Repositories; Problem Solving; Maps and Locations; Military, etc.
- Lecture Topics: The NGS 2017 Family History Conference features more than 175 lecture topics including “The Genetic Genealogy Revolution,” “Sources or Clues? Pitfalls of Using Published Genealogies and Online Trees,” “Rooted to the Earth: The Basics of Cherokee Genealogy,” “US Colored Troops in the Civil War: Researching Antebellum Military, and Post War Lives,” and “Beyond Google: The Evolution of Search.”

- **Special Workshops:** Among the special workshops offered is a BCG certification seminar about pathways to certification and how to begin; “DNA Writing Workshop”; “Chromosome Mapping Workshop”; 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 90 experienced lecturers are scheduled. Among the most highly recognized experts are Elizabeth Shown Mills, CGSM, CGLSM, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, author of 500+ publications including *Evidence Explained* and *Professional Genealogy*, and Craig Roberts Scott, CG, FUGA, president and CEO of Heritage Books, coordinator at IGHR, SLIG and GRIP, who is a featured consultant for the NGS Research Trip to Washington, D.C. and who specializes in records at the National Archives.

Special Events

- The NGS Banquet, Friday, 12 May, 7:00 p.m. (cash bar 6:00–7:00 p.m.), features Stuart Watson, an award-winning investigative reporter with more than thirty years of experience in journalism, non-fiction storytelling, media broadcasting, and journalism teaching.
- The NGS Luncheon, Saturday, 13 May, 12:15 p.m., features 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; author of the acclaimed *Mastering Genealogical Proof* and the newly introduced, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*.
- 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 Benjamin B. Spratling as well as the election of the Board of Directors.

Luncheons

- Eight 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), Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed) Alumni, Genealogical Speakers Guild and International Association for Family History Writers and Editors, NGS, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), and North Carolina Genealogical Society. Advance purchase required.

Conference Tours, Tuesday, 9 May 2017

Sales close 27 April 2017. Conference registration is not required to participate in these pre-conference events.

- **University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill Research Tour**
Spend the day researching your southern ancestors using the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill’s

extensive manuscript, Southern historical, and rare book collections at the Louis Round Wilson Library. Bus transportation is provided. This tour will last all day. Lunch is on your own and can easily be found next door to the library or a short walk through UNC's beautiful campus to Franklin Street. \$50 per person.

- **Durham Day Tour**

Experience the old South by visiting historic Stagville Plantation and Duke Homestead, followed by a tour of Bennett Place, the surrender site that ended the Civil War for the Carolinas. This tour will last all day. Lunch is on your own at Cracker Barrel. \$65 per person.

- **Raleigh Day Tour**

Visit the Joel Lane house, President Andrew Johnson's birthplace, Oakwood Cemetery, the state Capitol, and other historic locations. This tour is scheduled to last approximately 5 ½ hours. Lunch is on your own at Big Ed's in Raleigh's Historic City market. \$50 per person.

- **Downtown Raleigh at Night**

Ride the trolley to discover how close you are to the State Archives, restaurants, shops, museums, and more! A tour guide will point out historic downtown locations. The tour will last approximately one hour. (Two tours are scheduled. One begins at 4:00 p.m. and the second begins at 5:00 p.m.) \$25 per person.

Exhibit Hall

- More than eighty exhibitors and 10 sponsors 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, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, American Ancestors, Findmypast, and many more!
- The Exhibit Hall opens at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 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®.