



## NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Press Release

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## National Genealogical Society 2018 Family History Conference Program Now Available

ARLINGTON, VA, 20 NOVEMBER 2017—The National Genealogical Society’s 2018 Family History Conference [program](#) is now available online and as a downloadable sixteen-page [registration brochure](#). This year’s program, Paths to Your Past, will feature a full conference DNA track, an expanded African American track, and many new tracks and topics including “Paths, Trails, and Waterways” and “Occupations” and “Organizations” that developed as our ancestors left farms and moved into towns and cities. In all, the conference, which will be held 2-5 May 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will offer family historians and genealogists more than 175 lectures, an array of social events, and an expo with some eighty exhibitors.

The program will begin with John Philip Colletta, PhD, FUGA, delivering the keynote address, “Coming Along the Towpath: The Erie Canal and the Peopling of the Great Lake States.” Ten lecture tracks will cover a broad spectrum of topics, including immigration and migration, ethnic groups, military research, technology, repositories, etc. Also of interest will be topics that focus on Michigan, other Midwest states, and New York, which served as a major migration route to the Midwest.

The conference will take place at the DeVos Place Convention Center. [Registration](#) opens on 1 December 2017. A number of special events have been planned with limited seating, so register on 1 December, or as soon as possible thereafter, if you plan to attend any of these events. To learn more about our special events, see the [announcement brochure](#) and

our [program](#). Participants also will want to sign up early for tickets to the NGS banquet on Friday evening, featuring Ric Mixter, renowned shipwreck researcher, diver, and photographer, who will recount stories and show video clips about “The Great Storms of the Great Lakes.”

Up-to-date information about the availability, amenities, and rates for conference hotels can be found on our [conference website](#). Be sure to sign up for the NGS [Conference Blog](#) so you do not miss conference news or announcements.

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 nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

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