



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

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## **National Genealogical Society 2019 Family History Conference Fact Sheet**

### **The National Genealogical Society (NGS)**

- The National Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1903. NGS is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. Based in Falls Church, Virginia, NGS is the premier US 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**

- Each year, NGS holds an annual, educational family history national conference. The 2019 NGS Family History Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, will be its forty-first conference.
- The conference is usually held in May and rotates to different geographic regions to allow maximum access to a geographically diverse membership. This four-day conference offers 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 Charleston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Ft. Lauderdale, Grand Rapids, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Raleigh, Richmond, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, and St. Charles. Typically, more than two thousand people attend these conferences, which feature on average more than eighty exhibitors and 175 lectures.
- NGS Family History conferences offer numerous one-hour presentations in every time slot. 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—from those just starting to research their family tree to professional genealogists—the opportunity to learn from and meet leaders in the field. Participants are also able to network with fellow genealogists, family history

researchers, local historians, writers, publishers, and developers and suppliers of genealogical materials.

### **National Genealogical Society 2019 Family History Conference: Journey of Discovery**

- The NGS Family History Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, includes four full days of lectures and networking events that feature nationally known speakers. Learn more at the NGS conference website, [www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org).
- Conference Venue: St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, MO 63303
- When: Wednesday through Saturday, 8–11 May 2019
- Pre-Conference Events will take place on Tuesday, 7 May, including a Librarians' Day program; the Board for Certification of Genealogists® (BCG) Education Fund workshop, “Putting Skills to Work”; an African American workshop; an Irish workshop; a Civil War Tour; the St. Louis City Tour; and a research day at the St. Louis County Library.
- Registration (online or by mail): 1 December 2018 to 19 April 2019.
- Registration (onsite): Begins Tuesday, 7 May at 12 noon.
- Local Host Society: St. Louis Genealogical Society. See <http://stlgs.org> for more information.

### **Conference Program**

- The 2019 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 levels of research experience.
- Lecture Tracks and Topics: This year NGS offers many lecture tracks and topics including African American, English, German, Irish, and Scottish lectures; BCG Skillbuilding; DNA; Immigration and Migration; Missouri; Military; Religion; Technology; and Tips and Techniques.
- Speakers: More than ninety experienced lecturers are scheduled. Among the most highly recognized experts are Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, author of 500+ publications including *Evidence Explained* and *Professional Genealogy*, and Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, author, educator, researcher; teacher at Boston University, IGHR, and SLIG; editor of the NGSQ 2002-2018; and author of *Mastering Genealogical Proof* and *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*.

### **Special Events**

- The NGS Banquet, Friday, 10 May, 7:00 p.m. (cash bar 6:00–7:00 p.m.), features David Rencher, sharing stories about cemeteries, titled “If Carved in Stone, Your Epitaph is Already Disappearing!” Rencher is an Irish research specialist who is also the director of the Family History Library, the chief genealogical officer of FamilySearch, and past-president of FGS.
- The NGS Luncheon, Saturday, 11 May, 12:15 p.m., features Roberta Estes, author of the popular blog DNA-eXplained, a scientist, a founding pioneer in the genetic genealogy field, and a National Geographic Genographic affiliate researcher. She will speak about “Twists and Turns in the Genetic Road.”
- NGS Annual Meeting, Saturday, 11 May, 5:15 p.m., offers the occasion to hear the latest updates concerning publications, member benefits, genealogy courses, affiliate programs, video archives, and more from NGS President Benjamin Spratling, JD.

### **Luncheons**

- Eleven sponsoring organizations offer a selection of luncheons on Wednesday through Saturday, each featuring a speaker on a topic relevant to the sponsoring society or organization. These sponsoring organizations are Friends of the Missouri Archives (MoA), Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), Palatines of America, St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS), Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), FamilySearch, Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG) and International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISFHWE), Gen-Fed Alumni, NGS, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), and American Ancestors by NEHGS.

### **Conference Tours, Tuesday, 7 May 2019**

Conference registration is not required to participate in these pre-conference events.

- Civil War Tour, \$70 per person

Enjoy two Civil War facilities in St. Louis. The first stop on this guided tour is the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Park, a former home of the President and his family. St. Louis Genealogical Society will serve lunch at their office before the tour continues to the Civil War Museum, showcasing the border state and its contribution to both Union and Confederate soldiers. Enjoy the facilities, exhibits, and bookstore at each stop. Transportation, entry fees, and lunch included.

- Historic St. Louis Tour, \$70 per person

Explore St. Louis as you learn its history. Experience Forest Park, established in 1876 and the home of the 1904 World’s Fair. Enjoy lunch at the Anheuser-Busch Biergarten, which provides an opportunity to see the Clydesdales. Other sites include the Old Courthouse, the site of the Dred and Harriet Scott trial, the Gateway Arch, and much more. Transportation and lunch are included.

- St Louis County Library, \$25 per person

Home of the NGS Book Loan Collection, the library is open throughout the conference. Researchers may drive to the library any time or (on Tuesday only) register for the limited bus service. Lunch and transportation included.

### **Exhibit Hall**

- More than seventy exhibitors and sponsors will offer genealogical goods and services for the duration of the conference at the Family History Expo in the Exhibit Hall.
- The Family History Expo 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, American Ancestors by NEHGS, MyHeritage, and the National Genealogical Society.
- The Family History Expo opens at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 8 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**

- For additional information, contact the National Genealogical Society, at [ngs@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:ngs@ngsgenealogy.org) or call Ann Fleming, 2019 Conference Chair, at 314-606-9546.
- Also, you may visit the NGS website at [www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org).

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