



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2021 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY:

**NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

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NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome you to the NGS 2021 Family History Conference. It is our forty-third annual conference, and the second year we have offered our entire program virtually. The NGS conference committee has created a powerful program of virtual events for individual family historians, societies, and organizations that stretch over five days, 17-21 May 2021. Our presenters will help you advance your research by offering techniques and resources to discover your roots and build your family tree. During the conference, we will also collaborate with society leaders, librarians, and archivists to share ideas and strengthen our genealogical community.

The full week of virtual events is described in this program. Make sure you don't miss our featured events, **NGS 2021 Live! 19-20 May** and **NGS On-Demand starting 15 June**.

Take advantage of the discounted early bird registration fee, plus member discounts, when you sign up by 15 March 2021 for NGS 2021 Live! or On-Demand packages. Registration is now open at conference.ngsgenealogy.org.

Monday, 17 May, begins the conference week with a Kickoff Workshop for the **NGS Delegate Council** for NGS organizational members. [Page 4](#)

Tuesday, 18 May, presents the debut of the **SLAM! Idea Showcase**, which highlights creative and innovative projects or programs by societies, libraries, archives, and museums (SLAMs). [Pages 5–6](#)

Wednesday and Thursday, 19–20 May, NGS's premier two-day virtual conference event—**NGS 2021 Live!**—features award-winning authors **Dani Shapiro** and **Ric Murphy**; an opening session by esteemed genealogist and Virginia expert **Barbara Vines Little**; and presentations by nationally recognized speakers. [Pages 7–8](#)

Friday, 21 May, is devoted to **Focus on Societies**, an all-day event of presentations offering expert advice for society leaders on managing and growing their genealogical or historical society. [Pages 9–10](#)

Tuesday, 15 June, is the opening day for **NGS On-Demand**, a webinar lecture series. In addition to NGS 2021 Live!, NGS offers a choice of packages of twenty or forty lectures on-demand. Select your favorite topics from more than eighty-five on-demand sessions to build your skills and family history. [Pages 11-14](#)

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

More conference activities to anticipate:

All times are US Eastern Time

Virtual Exhibit Hall Opens

Wednesday, 19 May, 10:30 am

NGS Awards Presentations

Wednesday, 19 May, 12:30 pm

NGS Annual Meeting

Wednesday, 19 May, 5:20 pm

Meet Marquis de Lafayette

Thursday, 20 May, 5:00 pm

NGS Q&A with NGS President, Kathryn Doyle and NGS Executive Director, Matt Menashes

Thursday, 20 May, 5:45 pm

NGS Door Prizes and Drawings

At daily events

Registration details at conference.ngsgenealogy.org

Day 1:

Delegate Council—NGS organizational delegates by invitation only

Day 2:

SLAM!—Register at the NGS website

Days 3 & 4:

NGS 2021 LIVE!—Register at the NGS website, open now

Day 5

Focus on Societies—Register at the NGS website, open now

15 June

NGS On-Demand!—Register at the NGS website, open now

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

A message from Jan Alpert, Chair of the NGS Conference Committee

The NGS Family History Conference is created for family history researchers at all levels—beginner, intermediate and advanced. The breadth of lecture topics is designed to allow attendees to decide how to personalize their learning experience and build their skills in diverse areas including BCG Skillbuilding, DNA, Heritage Resources, Immigration, Land and Military Records, Migration, Methodology, Religion, Writing and Documentation, and much more. For those who help manage organizations that offer genealogical support, lectures dedicated to Communicating to Members, Managing Events, and Going Virtual are now an important part of our annual event.

On behalf of NGS, I want to thank the Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS), the 2021 Supporting Host Society, and Teresa Kelley, conference chair, who tirelessly helped shape and plan the 2021 conference originally scheduled to take place in Richmond, Virginia.* The VGS team was instrumental in helping transition the conference to an all-virtual program. I also want to thank the many members of the national NGS team, including members of our board, staff, speakers, conference committee, and volunteers who made this excellent program possible.

Thank you for supporting the National Genealogical Society and our conferences. We hope you enjoy your virtual genealogical journey with us during the week of 17–21 May. And may what you learn at the NGS Family History Conference bring you closer to your full family story.

*Status of Richmond 2021 Conference

Note: Due to ongoing mandates in Virginia in regards to COVID-19 and our concern for the well-being of our attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff, NGS is unable to host an in-person conference in Richmond, Virginia, in May 2021.

All times are US Eastern Time

Delegate Council Virtual Kickoff Workshop



Date: Monday, 17 May 2021

Time: To be determined

Registration Fee: FREE, by invitation only, for the delegate selected by each NGS member organization

The Virtual Kickoff Workshop will be an online event providing attendees the opportunity to learn about the Delegate Council—the new advisory body for genealogical member organizations of NGS. The Delegate Council will provide advice on genealogy and family history issues to the NGS Board of Directors, provide advice to the Board on how NGS can best serve genealogy and family history organizations, and implement programs delegated to the council by the NGS Board.

Workshop Purpose

- To share information about the structure and function of the Delegate Council
- To facilitate understanding of Delegate Council member roles
- To provide opportunities for feedback into Delegate Council operations
- To prepare members for effective collaboration on the Delegate Council

Who should attend?

- Official delegates of NGS member organizations
- If your organization is unsure of its NGS membership status or its assigned delegate please contact membership@ngsgenealogy.org.

About the Kickoff Workshop

The Virtual Kickoff Workshop will be held Monday, 17 May. The workshop will consist of:

- An opening plenary session to provide all attendees an overview of the workshop scope and daily schedule of activities
- Professionally moderated discussions designed to foster collaboration among NGS member organizations, ensuring effective communications throughout NGS, and providing advice and information to the NGS board
- Networking opportunities during program breaks and breakout sessions

Some portions of the workshop will be recorded and posted on the NGS website for member organization access.

All times are US Eastern Time

SLAM! Idea Showcase

Date: Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Time: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Registration Fee: \$25



The SLAM! Idea Showcase is just one of several new components of the week-long virtual NGS Family History Conference, 17–21 May 2021. The showcase will highlight creative and innovative projects or programs by societies, libraries, archives, and museums (SLAMs). The program will also include presentations that assist librarians and others who serve genealogists.

Purpose

- To share information about creative and innovative projects, resources, and practices with others
- To promote collaboration, networking, and collegiality among information providers
- To provide a format in which individuals and organizations can learn from one another

Who should attend?

- Information providers (genealogical society members, volunteers, information professionals) who serve genealogical researchers or the genealogical research community
- Individuals and organizations looking for ideas and fresh approaches in serving their research constituencies

About the SLAM! Idea Showcase event

The SLAM! Idea Showcase will be broadcast virtually on Tuesday, May 18. The event will consist of:

- The SLAM! Idea Showcase Spotlight—a main-stage
- Video poster sessions presented live by award winners and honorable mentions
- Virtual poster sessions—attendees will be able to view recordings of poster sessions, download handouts, and chat with individual poster session presenters
- The SLAM! Idea Showcase Spotlight will be recorded and, along with individual poster session recordings, be available for viewing on the NGS website

**For more information or to register, visit conference.ngsgenealogy.org/slam
The deadline for submissions is 15 March 2021.**

All times are US Eastern Time

10:30 am Virtual Exhibit Hall Opens

11:00 am Welcome and Announcements *Kathryn M. Doyle*, NGS President

11:10 am *Marlis Humphrey*, Moderator of Q&A

11:15 am Wednesday Opening Session

Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS

Beyond the Blue Mountains: They Came with a Dream, Their Descendants Followed
Success in tracking migrating Virginians requires an understanding of the geography and the available transportation routes (roads, canals, etc.) as well as the impact of ethnicity, economics, war, and other events occurring at the time. Q&A

12:00 pm Demonstration of the Virtual Exhibit Hall *Matt Menashes*, NGS Executive Director

12:15 pm Break

12:30 pm NGS Awards *Janet Bailey*, NGS Awards Chair

1:00 pm *Elizabeth Shown Mills*, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

Elusive Ancestors: Never Too Poor to Trace

Poor ancestors are a special challenge. Without deeds, wills, marriages, lawsuits, or newspaper accounts, how do we track migrations, identify origins, and find parents? Q&A

2:00 pm Special Guest *Dani Shapiro*

Author of fiction and memoirs including *Inheritance*. After a lifetime spent writing about the corrosive power of secrets within families, Shapiro stumbled upon a massive family secret of her own: her beloved father was not her father. As she writes in *Inheritance*, "I always knew there was a secret. What I didn't know, the secret was me." Q&A

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm *Thomas W. Jones, PhD*, CG, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Writing About and Documenting Genealogical Conclusions Using DNA Test Results

Examples from peer-reviewed articles show how to integrate DNA and documentary evidence in genealogical writing and to address issues of documenting living people's lineages. Q&A

4:00 pm Break

4:15 pm *Craig R. Scott*, CG, FUGA

BCG Skillbuilding: Establishing Identity and Kinship with Military Records

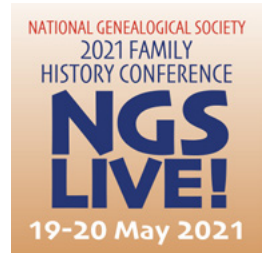
Using case studies, the session will focus on military records that establish identity and kinship that are little used by genealogists. Q&A

5:15 pm Wednesday Close and What to Expect Tomorrow *Marlis Humphrey*, Moderator

5:20 pm NGS Annual Meeting Begins

6:00 pm NGS Annual Meeting Adjourns

6:30 pm Virtual Exhibit Hall closes



All times are US Eastern Time

10:30 am Virtual Exhibit Hall Opens

11:00 am Welcome and Announcements *Marlis Humphrey, Moderator*

11:05 am Thursday Opening Session

Crista Cowan

AncestryDNA®: Putting Your DNA Results to Work to Further Your Research

Learn how AncestryDNA® can power your research and help you discover your story. ThruLines and better matching tools help get more from your DNA information. Q&A

12:05 pm Break

The Thursday program will consist of three breakout time frames. Each breakout will have a choice of four sessions followed by Q&A allowing for speaker interaction through the chat. Every conference attendee can choose one of the four sessions for each breakout. All breakout sessions will be available for viewing by attendees for no additional cost beginning in June.

12:15 pm Breakout

Eric G. Grundset, MLS

Virginia's Anglican/Episcopal Church Parishes and Their Surviving Records

Colonial Anglican parishes of Virginia provided important social-welfare services in the counties and some governmental duties. Their records are essential genealogical sources. Q&A **All Levels**

Janice Lovelace, PhD

Going Offline: Finding African American Resources

Although much is online, there is a wealth of information that is not. This lecture discusses where to find information on African American ancestors. Q&A **Beginner Level**

Cheri Hudson Passey

Ancestors in Southern Claims Commission Records

Full of information including answers to application questions and witness testimony, these records can add details of our ancestors' lives not found anywhere else. Q&A **Intermediate Level**

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

Finding Females: Wives, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, and Paramours

Social mores and laws left yesterday's women without a legal identity and few opportunities to create records. This session presents workarounds—both sources and strategies. Q&A **All Levels**

1:15 pm Break

1:30 pm Special Guest *Ric Murphy*

The Story of Virginia: Arrival of the First Africans

Ric Murphy, award winning author, will discuss how in 1619, a group of thirty-two African men, women, and children arrived on the shores of Virginia, kidnapped from the royal city of Kabasa, Angola, by the Spanish slave ship *San Juan Bautista*. Hear the history of these first Africans. Q&A

2:15 pm Break

All times are US Eastern Time

2:30 pm Breakout

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

Wild Beasts, Sabbath Breakers, and Incurable Rogues: Early Virginia Laws

The laws our ancestors lived by tell the story of earlier times and Virginia laws tell of Sunday frolics, wild animals, and those who needed humbling. Q&A **Intermediate Level**

Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS

After the Fire: Reconstructing a US World War I or II Military Service Record

Case studies demonstrate strategies and record collections that can help reconstruct a WWI or WWII service member's history despite a destroyed personnel file. Q&A **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Julie Miller, CG, CGL, FNGS

Alien Registration Records

This lecture will discuss what Alien Registrations are available, information found in the records, and how to access the records. Q&A **All Levels**

David McCorkle

Easily Find Your North Carolina Ancestor's Land History and Neighbors Using nlandgrants.com

Use nlandgrants.com to quickly search all 216,000 North Carolina land grants, complete with data and images of original documents, with many available nowhere else online. Q&A **All Levels**

3:30 pm Break

3:45 pm Breakout

Angie Bush, MS

Leveraging Genetic Networks to Break Down Brick Walls

With millions of testers in genetic genealogy databases, learn how to identify groups of shared matches or networks to break through brick walls. Q&A **Intermediate Level**

Mary Kircher Roddy, CG

Flying Under the Radar: Discovering Charles Olin's Alias

Charles Olin disappeared from Nebraska in 1908 but planted DNA in San Francisco in 1918. This case study proves the identity he used for forty years. Q&A **Intermediate Level**

Vic Dunn, CG

Scotch Irish from Pennsylvania Through Virginia and the Carolinas

Learn what sources are available for identifying these elusive ancestors who settled in Pennsylvania in the early eighteenth century, then moved southward. Q&A **All Levels**

Shelley Viola Murphy, DM

Virginia's Burned Counties: So What?

We understand there are burned counties. Does that really mean you are missing information? Learn other ways to research in the state of Virginia. Q&A **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

4:45 pm Break

5:00 pm Marquis de Lafayette

Hear stories about America's fight for independence from the young general Marquis de Lafayette. Q&A

5:45 pm NGS Q&A and Close *Kathryn M. Doyle, NGS President, and Matt Menashes, NGS Executive Director*

6:30 pm Virtual Exhibit Hall closes

All times are US Eastern Time

10:30 am Virtual Exhibit Hall Opens

11:00 am Welcome—*Cheri Hudson Passey, NGS VP Society and Organization Management*

11:05 Opening Session

Jill Morelli, CG

Lessons Learned from the Pandemic

Challenge or opportunity? COVID-19 challenged genealogical societies in many ways. Let's look at the opportunities it offered and our lessons learned.



12:00 pm Break

The Friday program will consist of three breakout time frames. Each breakout will have a choice of four sessions followed by Q&A allowing for speaker interaction through the chat. Every conference attendee can choose one of the four sessions for each breakout. All breakout sessions will be available to NGS Organization Members for later viewing on the NGS website.

12:15 pm Breakout—Communication to Members

Deb Cyprych

Finding Good Material for Society Newsletters

Are you running out of ideas for interesting articles every quarter? Get tips from an editor of family, county, state, and national publications.

Paula Williams

Focused Learning and Collaboration: Special Interest Groups in Your Genealogical Society

Expand your society's offerings by incorporating special interest and study groups for more active participation.

Laura Hedgecock

Website and Social Media Communication and Content Strategies for Societies

Learn simple strategies and best practices that your society can use to communicate more effectively with members, would-be members, and the community at large.

Lisa Lisson

Using Your Genealogy Society's Email List to Nurture and Grow Your Society

Genealogy societies will benefit from learning the importance of starting and effectively using an email list to nurture and grow society membership.

1:15 pm Break

1:30 pm Breakout—Managing Events

Judy Nimer Muhn

Society Management—Volunteer Motivations: Getting and Keeping Your Volunteers

Volunteers come with five motivations for their service. When you know what their motivations are, recruiting and retaining them is easier and more effective.

Elaine M. Kuhn, MLS

A Walk Among the Tombstones: Preparing for and Presenting a Cemetery Tour

Discover how your society can plan, prepare for, and present a successful cemetery tour.

All times are US Eastern Time

Reed Berkeley Powell

Event Management Intro for Local Genealogy Societies

Yes, your society can deliver an event that will boost membership and serve your local genealogy community. Tips from the presenter's personal local society experiences.

James Thornhill

Grow Your Society with Quality Events

Come and learn tried and true secrets for putting on quality events, starting with an idea and carrying it to completion.

2:30 Break

2:45 pm Society Shout Out

The best ideas from societies and organizations will be presented and shared.

3:45 Break

4:00 pm Breakout—Going Virtual!

Cheri Hudson Passey

Online Meetings: Helping Your Society Move into a Virtual World

Today, virtual programming is more important than ever. Learn how to have an online meeting and convince reluctant members to embrace new technology.

John Wylie

Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Use the TxSGS Preservation Capture System for Your Society's Digitization

Societies can adapt and implement this open-sourced PCS design, cutting edge, all volunteer, digitization project. Session will include documented methods, instructions, and lessons learned.

Daniel Earl

Going Virtual with the Next Generation: Involving Younger People in Virtual Meetings

Having seen the value of virtual meetings, this session will look at how to both attract and engage younger genealogists in your virtual meetings.

Anne Merrell

Digital Marketing for the Modern Society

Digital marketing is essential for society growth. Leave this class with a foundation for successful online engagement through your website, social media, and email campaigns.

5:00 pm Break

5:15 pm—Program Conclusion

Cheri Hudson Passey—NGS VP Society and Organization Management

After the Merger: Society Support Under NGS Leadership

How will things change for societies now that the merger of FGS and NGS is complete? What your organization can expect moving forward.

Q&A Close with panel: *Cheri Hudson Passey, Faye Stallings, David Rencher, AG, CG, Dawn Carey Henry, and Matt Menashes*

7:00 pm Virtual Exhibit Hall closes

On-Demand Lecture Series

Packages of 20 or 40 Lectures
Available for Viewing in Mid-June

African American

Deborah A. Abbott, PhD

Strategies and Techniques in African American Research: Finding the Enslaved and More

Using a case study, learn the importance of analyzing and using collateral and cluster research to bring success to the genealogical process. **All Levels**

Leslie Elaine Anderson, MSLS

Pitfalls and Best Practices in African American Genealogical Research

Debunk ten common myths that hinder productive research and replace them with key facts and sources that lead to good results. **All Levels**

Viola Osborne Baskerville and Brett Glymph

Creating a Sustainable Model for Restoring Historic African American Cemeteries: A Case Study

Identifying restoration planning components for a significant historic African American cemetery, keys to executing the restoration plan, and the importance to family research. **All Levels**

Amy Bertsch

Establishing the True Identities of “Felix Richards’ Slaves”

Examination of federal pension and claim records, along with local records, resulted in the identification of enslaved African Americans in a rare Civil War photograph. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Renate Yarborough Sanders

Researching Free People of Color in Antebellum Years: 1800–1865

Discussion of the lives and circumstances of FPOC in Virginia and North Carolina, laws enacted to control them, and record types for researching this population. **All Levels**

Ari Wilkins

Unique African American Records

Learn about some of the most unusual and underutilized African American records and where to find them. **All Levels**

BCG Skillbuilding

Pam Stone Eagleson, CG

Misled by Records: Identifying Adam Cosner’s Parentage

Pennsylvania and Ohio records, correlated with those of a German immigrant who died in Virginia, revealed Adam Cosner’s parents. **All Levels**

Amy Larner Giroux, PhD, CG, CGL

Faded Echoes of the Civil War: Correlating Evidence of Identity and Kinship

How do you identify sixty-eight soldiers whose gravesites are marked as Unknown? This case study uses photo analysis and FAN methodology to solve the problem. **All Levels**

Patti Hobbs, CG

Extending DNA Evidence: More is Better

Often passively observing DNA results to prove a relationship fails to yield sufficient evidence. Learn ways to identify more and make DNA evidence more robust. **All Levels**

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Building a Case with Scant Evidence

A case study demonstrates detecting, assembling, and interpreting scarce direct, indirect, and negative evidence and using it to prove negatives and correct entrenched errors. **All Levels**

Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL

Besieged by Baxters: A Case Study for a Common Name

This case will follow the search for Samuel Baxter's father amidst a multitude of same-named Baxters in Maryland and Pennsylvania in the early 1800s.

Intermediate-Advanced Level

Nicole Gilkison LaRue, CG

Their Mark Here: Signatures and Marks as Identifying Tools

Learn how to identify and use marks and signatures as tools to untangle identities of our ancestors. **All Levels**

Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS

It's All About Location: Putting Our Ancestors on a Map

Whether it's a row house in the city, rented land in the country, or land they owned, knowing where they lived makes a difference. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Angela Packer McGhie, CG

Strategies for Resolving Conflicting Evidence

Records often provide information that is inconsistent with other records. The challenge is in resolving these conflicts accurately, and these four strategies can help. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

Negative Evidence & Negative Findings: Appraising the Significance of "Missing Information"

Can genealogists take a negative (the absence of something) and produce a positive (proof of something)? This session explores actual research problems and record types. **All Levels**

Jill Morelli, CG

Content and Context: Conducting a Literature Search

A literature search launches all new ancestral research. Efficient and effective searching for pertinent documents and resources broadens perspective and proposes different questions. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

May I Please Have Your Permission? Using the Work of Others

Genealogists use other people's work as building blocks in family histories. Learn the rules of using it in a way that's legal, ethical, and smart. **All Levels**

Karen Stanbary, CG

Chasing Opportunity from Bas Rhin to Burlington, Iowa

A deep dive into documentary records follows an Alsatian immigrant on a journey through three states accompanied by three wives. DNA accurately reconstructs his family. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

Grains of Salt: Analyzing Sources, Information, and Evidence

Healthy skepticism is a valuable attribute in genealogical research. Careful evaluation of sources, information, and evidence leads to reliable answers to genealogical questions. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

DNA

Shannon Combs-Bennett

Creating a Research Plan for DNA Testing

Have you tested your DNA, or are you thinking about it? Learn how to integrate those results into a genealogy research plan to unlock more clues to your family's past. **Intermediate Level**

Libby Copeland

How Home DNA Testing is Changing Family Histories and the Implications for American Culture

Explore the impact of DNA testing on family histories, from individual seekers to communities including adoptees and the donor-conceived, and broadly on American culture at large. **All Levels**

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

"To protect people who provide DNA samples": The Ethics of DNA Testing

Using DNA in genealogy means finding new-technology solutions for old-time ethical dilemmas. What are our ethical obligations when using this twenty-first century tool? **All Levels**

Renate Yarborough Sanders

What's Done in the Dark... DNA Doesn't Lie!

Following a brief overview of DNA test types and companies, real-life examples of how DNA has revealed truthful answers to genealogical questions will be shared. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Diahan Southard

The Power of the "Other" DNA Tests: YDNA, mtDNA, and XDNA

YDNA, mtDNA, and XDNA are three other DNA tests that may be just what you need to break down that brick wall. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Diahan Southard

Your DNA Research Log: How to Stay Organized

A methodical approach to your DNA match list will save you hours of time and lead to faster discoveries. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Karen Stanbary, CG

Creation of a Meaningful Lump of Wax out of Teeny, Tiny Drips

Creative use of DNA test results provides clues leading to additional records and a successful reconstruction of several early 19th century families. **Advanced Level**

Paula Kay Williams

Solving a Virginia Mystery Using DNA

Family lore tells a different story than the records for the paternity of a southwest Virginia great-grandfather. Learn how DNA helps solve the mystery! **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Heritage

Michael Brophy

Irish Research

Irish research has unique challenges and realistic expectations must be maintained when conducting research. Unique methodology must be learned to be successful for this challenging endeavor. **Beginner Level**

Schelly Talalay Dardashti

Jewish Genealogy for the Non-Jew

With DNA testing, secrets are not secret and origins no longer forgotten. Were your results surprising? Learn about the essential resources for your quest. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Alec Ferretti, MSLS

Latin American Genealogy 101

Learn how to locate and understand genealogical records from Latin America by using the vast holdings on FamilySearch, supplemented with records from USCIS. **Intermediate Level**

Margaret R. Fortier, CG

French-Canadian Genealogy: Getting Started

French-Canadian genealogy involves unique resources but also presents some thorny challenges. Learn the basics of how to research the records in Quebec and the US. **Beginner Level**

Pam Vestal

Tracking Down Your Eastern European Ancestors

Learn strategies for locating ancestral places of origin, uncovering original names, finding and requesting records, understanding the documents, and coping with language challenges. **All Levels**

Immigration

Nancy E. Loe, MLS

European Immigrant Ancestors: Why They Left and How They Got Here, 1865-1920

Many factors pushed/pulled European ancestors to emigrate voluntarily to the US. Discover familiar and lesser-known migration records for all US ports. **All Levels**

Kris W. Rzepczynski, MLIS

Becoming American: Research with Naturalization Records

Explore the many resources available, whether online or in print, and successful research strategies to locate naturalization records. **All Levels**

Land and Maps

David M. McCorkle

Exhausted All the Deeds? Use Other Land Records to Uncover Even More Valuable Information

Deeds are valuable for genealogy, but other land records such as processioning, ejectments, homestead exemptions, and foreclosures can contain that information you've been searching for. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Angela Packer McGhie, CG
Homestead Records: A Goldmine for Genealogy

Nearly four million individuals claimed a homestead, leaving records that may include details on family members, neighbors, citizenship, military service, homes, improvements, and crops. **All Levels**

Dana Palmer, CG, CGL
Hidden Gems in Deeds

Deeds contain more than just land transactions. Find hidden gems for your family by using these records. **Intermediate Level**

Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA
Using Maps of the Mid-Atlantic Region to Further Your Genealogical Research

Find places and landowners in the Mid-Atlantic states using current and historical maps. Integrate maps with other resources to solve genealogical problems. Explore online resources. **Intermediate Level**

Methodology

Vic Dunn, CG
Too Many Sylvester Welches in Virginia! Untangling Same-Name Scenarios

Which one is my ancestor? This extended case study shows the methodology and sources available to differentiate identities. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS, FUGA
Don't Ignore the Sisters: The Keys to Unlocking Genealogical Mysteries

Frequently the females in a family are the keepers of their history. We will examine several case studies tracing sisters to solve research problems. **All Levels**

Sharon Cook MacInnes, PhD, CG
Are You a Hare or a Tortoise? Reevaluating Your Strategies Like a Forensic Detective

Detectives diligently search for and amass evidence, make extensive notes, interpret clues, resolve contradictions, draw solid conclusions, and testify to juries. Are genealogists any different? **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Mary Kathryn Risseuw
Genealogy of a Neighborhood: Urban and Rural

Examining those who lived near your ancestor provides a clearer context for their life. Learn to use common and unusual sources to broaden their story. **All Levels**

Mary Kircher Roddy, CG
Really? Proving and Refuting Family Lore

Separate fact from fiction by digging deep to find corroborating evidence to support (or refute) family tales. **Intermediate Level**

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL
The Common Law: From Mr. Justice Blackstone to Mr. Justice Tucker

Understanding the common law and its role in shaping the principles underlying early legal records helps us correctly reconstruct our families. **All Levels**

Migration

B. Douglas Conley
When Luck Comes: Northern Neck Out-Migrations and the Georgia Land Lotteries

Explore Northern Neck emigrants who appear in Georgia records in large numbers during the land lottery period (1805-1833) including case studies, record groups, and migration mapping. **Intermediate Level**

Eric G. Grundset, MLS
East of the Blue Ridge: Roads, Their Development, and Their Effect on Family Migrations

The development of roads in Tidewater and Piedmont Virginia is often overlooked when studying family migrations and connections. **All Levels**

Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS
Early Settlement on the Western Waters (Virginia, Kentucky and What Became West Virginia)

Frontier settlers are difficult to identify. Virginia researchers are blessed with multiple record groups that help locate them. **All Levels**

Dana Palmer, CG, CGL

Buckeye Expansion: Migration into Ohio

Many people moved to Ohio or passed through it. Where did they come from and where did they settle? Come learn about Ohio's early expansion. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Military

Amy Larner Giroux, PhD, CG, CGL

"Charley keep my gun clean": Documenting Love and Loss During the Civil War

Snippets of information in historical records show the effects of the Civil War on families. Finding these types of items can help enhance family stories. **All Levels**

Terry Koch-Bostic

Civil War Records: Going Beyond NARA Pension Files

Additional records for Civil War era ancestors exist in collections such as US Sanitary Commission pension and hospital files, state and local collections, and regimental histories. **Intermediate Level**

Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL

Rare Revolutionary Bounty Land Scrip Act Applications

Unclaimed awards of Revolutionary bounty land by Virginia and Continental Line veterans were surrendered for scrip for federal lands. Scrip applications hold rare genealogy gems. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA

Finding Military Records in Published Sources

Many publications document military service. Discover both the old and the many new publications available, including those that have been published to the internet. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Records

Danni Altman-Newell

Fraternal Organizations: The Original Social Network

Social networks have existed since before the digital age. Fraternal organizations were among the original social networks and can add flavor to your ancestor's story. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Shannon Combs-Bennett

House and Land Histories for Genealogical Purposes

Our ancestors made themselves homes and these homes created records. Understanding how to research these records may be your answer to a difficult research problem! **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Julie Miller, CG, CGL, FNGS

Carriers of News and Knowledge: Post Office Records

Post Office records are full of genealogical riches. Come and learn about these records, their contents, and how to access these underutilized records. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

Tax Records: Getting Our Money's Worth from the Taxes Our Ancestors Paid

Tax records are pure gold for the genealogist, with great potential to solve our thorniest problems—if we squeeze out all they have to offer. **All Levels**

Shelley Viola Murphy, DM

White Refugees, Black Freedmen: Gems from the Freedmen's Bureau

Focus on the gems in this record set. Not only should African Americans use these records, but Whites may find their White Southerner ancestors. **All Levels**

Diane L. Richard

Journey Through Ledgers Where Genealogical Gems Abound

A visual journey through ledgers. Store, hotel, livery, stable, distillery, blacksmith, physician, etc., ledgers provide a unique perspective regarding your family history. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Jane Neff Rollins

Government Grunts: Researching Ancestors Who Worked for the Government

Did your ancestor work for the government? Government employment records are an underutilized resource for genealogy research and are rich in genealogically-relevant data. **All Levels**

C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL
**"Climatic Clues"—Our Ancestors
 Weathering Their Lives**

The weather affected how our ancestors handled their day-to-day activities. Together we will examine the various records left behind to find the clues we need. **All Levels**

Religion

Deb Cyprych
**Strategies for Reading German
 Church Records**

Learn about helpful tools and strategies for reading German script, understanding basic German words, and gaining valuable information from German church records. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Carolyn Wright Whitton, CG
Ancestors' Religions in the US

Religious records are essential in genealogy research. Do you know all ancestors' religions? Review the Protestant Reformation and religions in the US. Find your ancestor. **All Levels**

Kristin R. Wenger
**Mennonite and Brethren
 Research: Pennsylvania, Virginia,
 and Beyond**

Retrace the path of the Shenandoah Valley's Anabaptist settlers along the Great Wagon Road to Pennsylvania. Learn about repositories and resources for research. **Intermediate Level**

Research Foundations

Shannon Coombs-Bennett
**The Good, Bad, and Ugly Truth
 about Published Genealogies**

Just because it is published does not make it correct. Learn how to vet information contained in published books to make your research that much better. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Pam Stone Eagleson, CG
**Using Bible Records in
 Genealogical Research**

Because an event is recorded in a family bible doesn't mean it's the gospel truth. Learn how to locate family bibles and evaluate and analyze bible entries. **Beginner Level**

Nicole Gilkison LaRue, CG
**Is that an L or an S? Transcribing
 Documents to Meet Standards**

Working with original documents can present many challenges. This lecture will discuss relevant standards, solutions to common problems, and work through original examples. **All Levels**

Alice Hoyt Veen, CG
**Timelines: Your Ancestor's
 Lifeline!**

One of the simplest yet most effective genealogical tools, timelines document your ancestor's "lifeline," providing context for life events and construction of effective research plans. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

States

Melissa Barker
**Researching at the Tennessee
 State Library and Archives, At
 Home!**

Traveling to an out of state archive can be challenging. Learn how to use the website and records at the facility to find Tennessee ancestors from home. **All Levels**

Cheri Daniels, MSL
**Kentucky Research Roadmap:
 Step by Step Plan to Find
 Kentucky Ancestors**

Every day our library helps researchers find their Kentucky ancestors. This session will provide the roadmap for success—focusing on resources and record creation. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL
**The Hunt for Maryland Vital
 Records**

Most birth, marriage and death records for Maryland are not online. Learn where to find them and what indexes and rare records are online. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Sharon Cook MacInnes, PhD, CG
**Think Your Ancestor Was a
 Frontier Pennsylvanian? Check
 Virginia Records**

William Penn refused to sell Pennsylvania land until he arranged a treaty with Indians. Virginia, also claiming western Pennsylvania, had no such qualms. Result: Records! **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Angela Packer McGhie, CG
Research Maryland Deeds Online Using MDLandRec.net and Plats.net
 Many Maryland land records, indexes, and images are available online. The challenge is learning to navigate the website to locate records of interest.
Intermediate-Advanced Level

Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, FUGA and Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA
Research in Washington, DC
 Discover resources for researching DC residents as well as national resources for all Americans in the District of Columbia.
Beginner-Intermediate Level

Lori Thornton, MLS
Mississippi Roots: Finding Your Magnolia State Ancestors
 Overview of Mississippi records, resources, and repositories for genealogical research.
Beginner-Intermediate Level

Tech Tips

Claire Kluskens, JD
Using the Online National Archives Catalog for Fun and Genealogical Profit!
 Don't spin your wheels! Learn how to effectively and efficiently use the online National Archives Catalog to find genealogical gems.
All Levels

Katherine Schober
Google Translate and Genealogy: What You Should Be Using Instead
 Google Translate is not always the most reliable tool to translate your genealogy documents. Discover the other options available and how to use them.
Beginner Level

Virginia

Katie Quick Derby
The Ferrell House: A Case Study in Online Virginia Historic Property Research
 Explore the resources and methodology used to uncover the remarkable story of the African American families that built and lived in a humble Charlottesville home.
Beginner-Intermediate Level

Vic Dunn, CG
Before Virginia: Finding the Origins of Colonial Immigrants
 Determining a Virginian immigrant's origins can be a challenge. Find out what sources and techniques are available.
All Levels

Cara F. Griggs
Virginia Naturalization Records, 1657/58-1952
 This lecture provides an overview of Virginia naturalization records from the colonial era through the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952.
Intermediate Level

Eric G. Grundset, MLS
404 Years of Sources: Virginia's General Assembly, Governors, and the Records They Created
 Virginia's legislative and gubernatorial records have affected all who live within the Old Dominion.
All Levels

Eric G. Grundset, MLS
Little Maps of the Land: Surveys and Surveyors' Records in Virginia Genealogical Research
 Land plats, surveys, and related documents are essential sources for locating the ancestral lands. This lecture examines historical and modern techniques and sources in Virginia.
All Levels

Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS
Virginia Probate: The Records and the Law
 Virginia's lack of estate packets requires the researcher to scrutinize what little is available and to evaluate everything based on the law.
All Levels

Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA
The Pension Office: Getting the Old Men Paid in Virginia
 This lecture will discuss the process and records associated with payments made to pensioners from the Revolution up to the beginning of the Civil War.
Beginner-Intermediate Level

Robert Vernon

The Art and Mysterie of Colonial Apprenticeships

Examination of the processes used by Virginia county courts for managing juvenile apprenticeships, focusing on contractual relationships that protected the rights of free Black apprentices.

Intermediate-Advanced Level

Robert Vernon

The Fragility of Freedom: Kinney Family Freedom Suits in Virginia and Missouri

The 150-year odyssey of the Native American Kinney family as they passed from freedom to slavery, reclaimed freedom in Virginia, and were re-enslaved in Missouri. **All Levels**

Women

Diane L. Richard

In Her Own Words—Lives of Women Through Diaries, Journals, Correspondence and More

Women are traditionally challenging to document in historical public records. Personal diaries, journals, correspondence, and more can help fill in gaps about female ancestors. **Beginner-Intermediate Level**

Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

Reclaiming Their Rights: Female Legislative Petitions and Divorce

Divorce, child custody, and restrictive property rights were issues early American females sought to remedy through legislative petitions. Records contribute evidence for identities and relationships. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Writing

Shelley Bishop

Writing to Preserve Family History

Writing and sharing our genealogical research is the greatest legacy we can leave the future. Learn about journal articles, family history books, and publishing options. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**

Lori Thornton, MLS

Righting Your Wrongs Through Writing

Writing ancestral narratives offers an opportunity to review older research and correct errors made when less experienced. One genealogist demonstrates the process. **Intermediate-Advanced Level**