



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810

Falls Church, VA 22042-2318

Phone 703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060

www.ngsgenealogy.org

The National Genealogical Society 2020 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 2020 NGS Family History Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, will be its forty-second 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 2020 Family History Conference: Echoes of Our Ancestors

- The NGS Family History Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, 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.
- Conference Venue: Salt Palace Convention Center, 100 S W Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101
- When: Wednesday through Saturday, 20–23 May 2020
- 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”; the Brigham Young University Family History Library and Special Collections Tour; the Welfare Square and International Peace Gardens Tour; the Utah State Archives and Division of State History Tour; and a visit to the Natural History Museum and Red Butte Garden.
- Registration (online or by mail): 2 December 2019 to 17 April 2020.
- Registration (onsite): Begins Tuesday, 19 May at 12 noon.
- Local Host Society: Utah Genealogical Association. See <https://ugagenealogy.org/> for more information.

Conference Program

- The 2020 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 Ethnic Resources and Research Techniques, BCG Skillbuilding; Specialized Collections at the Family History Library; DNA; Immigration and Migration; Religion; Records; and Heritage lectures.
- 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, 22 May, 7:00 p.m. (cash bar 6:00–7:00 p.m.), features Steffani Raff, storyteller and re-enactor who will lead us on a journey through women’s right to vote with “Echoes of the Women Who Have Gone Before—Celebrating Women's Suffrage.”
- The NGS Luncheon, Saturday, 23 May, 12:15 p.m., features Val D. Greenwood, AG, FUGA, author of *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy*; former Ricks College instructor and UGA president. She will speak about “Genealogy Then and Now.”
- NGS Annual Meeting, Saturday, 23 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

- Thirteen 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 Arizona Genealogical Advisory Counsel, Friends of the Missouri Archives (MoA), Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), FamilySearch, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Gen-Fed Alumni Association, Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), American Ancestors by NEHGS, NGS, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), Palatines to America, and the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA).

Conference Tours, Tuesday, 19 May 2020

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

- Brigham Young University Family History Library and Special Collections Tour, \$30 per person

A visit to the BYU campus in Provo will provide research time in the database, archive, and library collections. A tour of facilities and free research time at the Center for Family History and Genealogy, the Family History Library within the Harold B. Lee Library, and the L. Tom Perry Special Collections – which contains manuscript collections relevant to the Intermountain West, American Indian, western migration, and Latter-day Saint history/genealogy. A limited number of one-on-one or two-on-one research consultations will be available. There will be a wide range of lunch options in eateries and on-campus cafes

- Welfare Square and International Peace Gardens Tour, \$40 per person

Learn what The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does to care for the poor, foster self-reliance, and provide work and service opportunities. Tour Welfare Square’s storehouse, cannery,

bakery, and dairy. Then visit the International Peace Gardens, which feature native plantings, garden architecture, and statues of world peace leaders. Transportation and box lunch included.

- The Utah State Archives and Division of State History Tour, \$25 per person

Tour the Utah State Archives & Records Service and the Utah Division of State History. Learn how they manage their collections and preserve records and see interesting records and artifacts they house. Observe the State Archives "robots" in action, visit the Research Room, browse the Rio Gallery Museum, and enjoy lunch at the iconic Rio Grande Café. Transportation included, lunch on your own at the café.

- Natural History Museum and Red Butte Garden, \$65 per person

Utah's Natural History Museum is one of the country's finest natural history museums. Explore artifacts highlighting Utah's history, dinosaurs, native peoples, world-famous landscapes, and more. Also visit the Red Butte Garden, one of the largest botanical gardens in the Intermountain West. It features themed gardens, a children's garden, waterfall and pond, and hiking trails. Admissions, transportation, and box lunch 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, Family Tree DNA, and the National Genealogical Society.
- The Family History Expo opens at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 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 or call Erin Shifflett, NGS Conference Manager, at 571-234-8032.
- Also, you may visit the NGS website at www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org.

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