



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
2019 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE  
**8-11 MAY 2019 | ST. CHARLES, MO**

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# Journey of Discovery



PRESENTED BY

**NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY®**

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LOCAL HOST SOCIETY

**ST. LOUIS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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[www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org)

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# Journey of Discovery

With courage in their hearts, joy in their souls, and a compass in their hands, American pioneers set out charting their course as they migrated to the Louisiana Purchase and the Northwest Territory. They opened the Midwest and Plains states to migration and new settlements. They crossed the country by wagon train and on foot, sailed on steamboats along the rivers, and rode the rails. Settlers farmed the land, felled trees for log cabins, or carved the earth to build sod houses. Native Americans, French fur traders, and Spanish soldiers preceded these settlers. After the Civil War, freed African Americans traveled north from southern plantations. The Germans and Irish as well as Eastern Europeans poured into the country and established new towns and cities, schools, and businesses, while maintaining their own customs and religions. Our predecessors built a nation and established their own history as they experienced the ultimate journey of discovery.



**A**s genealogists, we pursue our ancestors' histories, trying to gain an understanding of who they were and what drove them to make this arduous journey. Our tools are not plows and axes but analysis, methodology, and research skills. The purpose of the National Genealogical Society's annual Family History Conference is to offer the best and most expansive series of lectures to advance your research by learning about techniques and resources to build your family history. The NGS conference in St. Charles, Missouri, includes more than 150 unique lectures on topics such as vital records and religious records, migration and immigration, U.S. census and military records, land records and maps, court records, ethnic

resources, government documents, using DNA testing, technology for genealogy, Midwest regional topics, and much more.



Conference registration for the NGS 2019 Family History Conference, begins 1 December 2018 at [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org).

At that time, you can also register for workshops, tours, meals, and other special events. Every conference attendee receives a digital conference syllabus of more than 600 pages that includes each handout provided for every lecture.

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## CONVENTION CENTER

The St. Charles Convention Center (SCCC) at One Convention Center Plaza is conveniently located along I-70 in St. Charles, only seven miles west of the St. Louis Airport. The SCCC offers free parking for conference attendees and those registered at the adjoining conference hotel. The building allows easy access to and from lecture halls and the exhibit area, all with internet service. Shuttles will provide transportation between designated hotels and the SCCC during the conference.

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## CONFERENCE HOTELS

Embassy Suites St. Charles is the conference hotel and is connected to the 2019 NGS conference center site. Other conference hotels also offer a variety of room rates, free parking, and internet service, and most offer free breakfast each morning. When making a reservation, be sure to ask for the 2019 NGS rate. Seven hotels, within a two-mile radius of the conference site, will have a complimentary shuttle service to the SCCC. Two additional hotels are a little farther away and do not offer shuttle service. Uber and taxi service is also available.

**Registration opens on 15 August 2018 at all NGS hotels.** For detailed information on each hotel including all applicable room fees and taxes for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy rates, as well as hotel amenities and cancellation policies, see Hotel Reservations on 15 August at [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org).

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## TOURS AND EVENTS

### TUESDAY

#### Civil War Tour

Enjoy two Civil War facilities in St. Louis. The Missouri Civil War Museum, library, and educational center explores the border state and its contribution to both the Union and Confederate soldiers. The second stop is the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, named White Haven, a former home of President U.S. Grant and his family. Enjoy the exhibits and bookstore at each facility. A box lunch is included in the tour fee. Further details available in the summer of 2018.

#### St. Louis City Tour

Explore St. Louis as you learn its history. Experience Forest Park, established in 1876 and the home of the 1904 World's Fair. The park now includes the award-winning St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, and many other sights. Enjoy lunch at the Anheuser-Busch

Biergarten, which also provides an opportunity to see the world-famous Clydesdales. Other sites include the Old Courthouse, the site of the Dred and Harriet Scott trial, the Gateway Arch, Soldiers' Memorial, and much more. Transportation and lunch are included in the tour fee.

#### Research at St. Louis County Library

Spend a day researching in History & Genealogy (H&G), home of the NGS Book Collection. H&G offers extensive German resources, including one of the largest collections of *Ortssippen* books found in U.S. public libraries; Canton Bern, Switzerland, church records; sources for British Isles research; *Yizkor* books; Draper Manuscripts Collection; Southern Claims Commission records on microfilm; published Civil War histories; French Canadian church records; the Mary F. Berthold Collection of family histories; Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collection; the William C.E. and Bessie K. Becker

Collection; and the Julius K. Hunter and Friends African American Research Collection, to name just a few. This facility is an Affiliate of FamilySearch Library. Transportation provided, lunch on your own.

#### TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

Tuesday offers three pre-conference workshops (lunch included) held at the convention center. The registration brochure, available before 1 December 2018, will provide further details.

##### **African American Workshop**

Experts specializing in African American research will lead this workshop and teach strategies on navigating records for African American families.

##### **BCG Education Fund Workshop**

Learn from BCG members about skills used by genealogical researchers whether a family historian, hobbyist, librarian, writer, or professional genealogist.

##### **Irish Workshop**

Broaden your knowledge of special techniques and unique records utilized by Irish research experts.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

##### **Genealogy Trivia Night**

Enjoy an evening challenging your knowledge on genealogical and historical topics. Join friends, family, and speakers, and organize into teams comprised of eight people each. The team will work together to answer questions. The accompanying silent auction and door prizes will offer many valuable items of interest to genealogists. Dinner, trivia, and the promise of an enjoyable evening are included. St. Louis Genealogical Society will host.

#### THURSDAY EVENING

##### **Dining and Shopping**

Surround yourself with the spirit of adventure and history as you trace the footsteps of Lewis and Clark on the cobblestone streets along St. Charles's Main Street. A rustic environment invites you to enjoy a unique dining and shopping experience in an old town atmosphere. Select the restaurant, cuisine, and dining companions of your choice. Complimentary shuttles provide round-trip transportation to and from Main Street, hotels, and conference center. Shuttle and trolley service is available each day of the conference.

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## REPOSITORIES

Research opportunities surround the 2019 conference site. Missouri, St. Louis, St. Charles, and other local areas are featured, with several facilities offering national collections. Expanded information about hours of operation and their research collection details will be available in early 2019 at [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org).

- **St. Louis County Library (SLCL):** St. Louis County Library: Home of the NGS Book Loan Collection and many other holdings noted on the previous page. Review the holdings of the History & Genealogy Department online at [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org).
  - **National Archives (NARA) at St. Louis:** National Archives at St. Louis: NARA St. Louis houses military and civilian personnel records including those for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers. Genealogists should make requests and appointments in advance. Refer to the NARA website for up-to-date information at [www.archives.gov/st-louis](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis).
  - **St. Charles Library:** Kathryn Linneman Branch: [www.youranswerplace.org/kathryn-linnemann-branch](http://www.youranswerplace.org/kathryn-linnemann-branch)
  - **St. Louis Public Library:** A historic Carnegie library in downtown St. Louis. [www.slpl.org](http://www.slpl.org)
- State Repositories:**
- **Missouri State Archives:** Located in Jefferson City, this facility offers original records and microfilm for all 114 counties in Missouri. Information about their holdings is available at [www.sos.mo.gov/records](http://www.sos.mo.gov/records). Many Missouri records, such as free Missouri Death Certificates, 1910–1966, are available at Missouri Digital Heritage, [www.sos.mo.gov/mdh](http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh).
  - **State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSM):** Based in Columbia with branches across the state, SHSM offers published statewide records, manuscript collections, and an excellent Missouri newspaper collection at [shsmo.org](http://shsmo.org).
- Local Repositories:**
- **Mercantile Library:** [www.umsl.edu/mercantile](http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile)
  - **Missouri History Museum Library & Research Center:** [mohistory.org/lrc-home](http://mohistory.org/lrc-home)
  - **St. Charles County Historical Society:** Available via the shuttle. [scchs.org](http://scchs.org)

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Experience a Journey of Discovery at the NGS 2019 Family History Conference.

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