



19-22 MAY 2021 | RICHMOND, VA  
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY:  
**NATIONAL  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY®**

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LOCAL HOST:  
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[vgs.org](http://vgs.org)





# VIRGINIA: DEEP ROOTS OF A NATION

William Byrd II once said, "In the beginning, all America was Virginia." Since the settling of Jamestown in 1607, immigrants from many countries have made Virginia their home. Some remained for generations while many others moved on to new frontiers to expand, populate, and build a nation.

In 1619, the first ship carrying enslaved African Americans arrived in Port Comfort, Virginia. The transcontinental slave trade continued

for more than two hundred years often separating families. Early Virginians of European descent traveled westward into the Valley of Virginia and southward into the Carolinas. Germans and Scots Irish from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland migrated into the Valley as well. As the frontiers opened, migrants moved south to the Carolinas and Georgia and then west, ever searching for new land and new frontiers. This migration displaced

many Native American tribes, including the federally recognized Virginia tribes of the Pamunkey, Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Nansemond, and Monacan.

A vast and diverse number of Americans can trace their roots back to the Old Dominion. We encourage you to return to Richmond to discover and explore the records, history, and origins of your ancestors.

## NGS 2021 CONFERENCE

The National Genealogical Society 2021 Family History Conference will be held 19–22 May 2021 in Richmond, Virginia. Over four days you will have an opportunity to attend your choice of lectures each day among the conference's 175 offerings, luncheons, and a banquet, all with expert and entertaining speakers. Designed for family history researchers at all levels—beginner, intermediate, and advanced—the NGS conference lectures will feature

- record collections in Virginia and neighboring states

- resources and techniques for researching African American, Native American, and other ethnic groups
- local and federal government records including military, tax, land, and probate records
- immigration to America and migration across the country
- the use of DNA to help determine relationships
- methods to analyze and evaluate evidence
- and much more.

Downtown Richmond



A detailed program brochure including pricing will be available this fall with registration opening in December 2020.

## GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER



Greater Richmond Convention Center  
richmondcenter.com

Richmond, site of the forty-third annual NGS Family History Conference, offers an exciting experience for attendees, with many excellent hotels, restaurants, and shops, and several outstanding genealogical research facilities including the Library of Virginia just a few blocks away. The Conference will be held in the Greater Richmond Convention Center, [richmondcenter.com](http://richmondcenter.com), 403 North Third Street, a modern convention center set in the heart of downtown and only ten miles from the Richmond International Airport.

## CONFERENCE HOTELS

Reservations will open in mid-September 2020. The official conference hotel, the Richmond Marriott, and the Hilton Richmond Downtown are across the street from the convention center. The Omni, Hampton Inn, Homewood Suites, and Holiday Inn Express Downtown Richmond are less than a mile away. Shuttles will provide transportation between these hotels and the convention center, Tuesday through Saturday during the conference. For more details see the NGS Conference website [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org), beginning in July 2020.



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2021

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

## Focus on Societies

Genealogical societies, historical societies, and family organizations are the backbone of the genealogy community. The coming merger of the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies offers fresh opportunities to share our successes and launch a new era of organizational collaboration.

Focus on Societies features a full day of lectures, workshops, and panels centered on sharing best practices, building leadership, attracting new members, planning stimulating programs, developing newsletters and other publications, learning about disaster prevention and recovery, and preserving records. Gather together with other community members to share, learn, and build skills that will enrich your organization and engage your members. Registration for the Tuesday program includes the Celebration of Societies lunch.

On the cover: "Richmond, from the hill above the waterworks," engraved by W.J. Bennett from a painting by G. Cooke; published by Lewis P. Clover (New York) circa 1834 ([commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Richmondfromabovethewaterworks.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Richmondfromabovethewaterworks.png))

## Focus on Societies luncheon



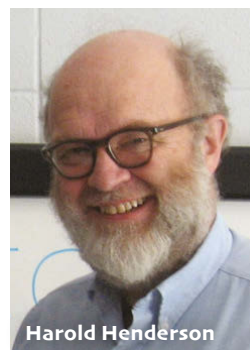
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

## BCG Education Fund Workshop—Putting Skills to Work

This intensive, full day of learning focuses on skills needed by all genealogists and advocates established genealogical standards. Limited to sixty students and geared to intermediate and advanced practitioners, the two in-depth sessions incorporate hands-on exercises and active class discussion. The registration fee includes lunch, class sessions, and syllabi. NGS Conference registration not required. Sponsored by the BCG Education Fund, an independent charitable trust, [bcgedfund.org](https://bcgedfund.org).

Join instructors Harold Henderson, CG and Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, FNGS, FASG, FUGA, as they present "Turning Masses of Information into Useful Case Studies."

Research is done; information has been gathered. One session will focus on evaluating and sifting information to determine the significant evidence and assemble it into defensible conclusions. The other session will address presenting the sifted evidence to make conclusions understandable and credible to readers. Lecture, discussion, and exercises with real-life examples will give attendees a taste of the process.



Harold Henderson



Thomas W. Jones

THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2021

6:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

## Virginia Genealogical Society—Host Society Event An Evening with the Marquis de Lafayette

Begin your evening at a reception hosted by the Virginia Genealogical Society, featuring Al Neale, an exceptional musician. He will perform patriotic, lively show tunes and ballads from the 1800s, in a mixture of African and European styles, on a variety of instruments including the banjo, fiddle, and bones. Following the reception, enjoy a delectable dinner and hear stories about America's fight for independence from the young general Marquis de Lafayette. Although he was born into nobility, Lafayette sympathized with the colonists, funded his own way to America, and served without pay alongside General Washington who soon referred to Lafayette as his adopted son.



The reception of Lafayette at Mount Vernon, home of Washington. c1875  
[loc.gov/pictures/item/2006678648](https://loc.gov/pictures/item/2006678648)



# CONFERENCE TOURS

## MONDAY, 17 MAY 2021

Tours will be offered on Monday to allow conference attendees to attend the Focus on Societies or the BCG Education Fund Workshop, or pursue research, on Tuesday. Enjoy one of three historical tours presented by Richmond Discoveries in air-conditioned motor coaches which will include some walking and a few cobblestone streets.



## CIVIL WAR RICHMOND (FULL DAY)

For four years, Richmond was the embattled capital of the Confederacy. Experience a tour of the American Civil War Museum which features exhibits about Union and Confederate soldiers and enslaved and free African Americans. The multi-site museum includes the Historic Tredegar Iron Works and the White House of the Confederacy. Stroll through Hollywood Cemetery, the final resting place of 18,000 Confederate enlisted men, twenty-five Confederate generals, and other famous personages. The tour will also include the Virginia State Capitol and lunch on your own in historic Shockoe Slip, a restored warehouse district with a wide variety of restaurants.



Maggie L. Walker  
[nps.gov/media/photo/gallery](https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery)

Registration opens  
1 December 2020 at  
[conference.ngsgenealogy.org](https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org)

## RICHMOND'S BLACK HERITAGE (MORNING)

View sites which define Central Virginia's rich African American heritage such as Virginia Union University; the Bojangles Statue; First African Baptist Church; and Jackson Ward, known as both "Harlem of the South" and "Black Wall Street." Also see Evergreen Cemetery established in 1891, a UNESCO "site of memory" and resting place for thousands, many of whom were first generation freedmen and women. Visit the Maggie L. Walker House, home of an inspirational civic leader and America's first female bank president.

## RICHMOND DISCOVERIES (AFTERNOON)

Enjoy an overview of Richmond's historical and cultural attractions including a visit to St. John's Church where Patrick Henry gave his passionate "Liberty or Death" speech in 1775, Church Hill noted for unique cast iron patterns, and other graciously restored neighborhoods. See Virginia's Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and the First Freedom site, and hear about Thomas Jefferson's influence in shaping our nation's democracy.



# RESEARCH IN RICHMOND

Come early or stay after the conference and take advantage of the incredible research facilities in Virginia. Prior to your visit search *Virginia Heritage*, [vaheritage.org](https://vaheritage.org), a consolidated database of more than 13,000 finding aids for manuscripts and archival materials located in various repositories throughout the Commonwealth.

## Library of Virginia

by Prakash Patel



## Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia, only three short blocks from the convention center, was founded in 1823 and houses the most comprehensive collection in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture, and government. Resources include state, county, and local government records, newspapers, Bible records, personal papers, business records, and many other items of genealogical interest. For an introduction to the Library see "Using the Collections," [https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using\\_collections.asp](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp).

800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

804-692-3500 | [lva.virginia.gov](https://lva.virginia.gov)

Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Founded in 1831 and formerly known as the Virginia Historical Society, this repository focuses on private materials that cover all four centuries of Virginia's history. It houses a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia that includes newspapers, family and personal papers, business and organizational records, genealogical materials, maps, and photographs.

428 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard,  
Richmond, VA 23220 | [virginiahistory.org](https://virginiahistory.org)

804-340-1800 or 800-358-8701

Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

More research facilities will be listed on the conference website [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org) and in future conference blog articles.