



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

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Press Release

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The National Genealogical Society Announces Call for Proposals for 2020 Family History Conference

FALLS CHURCH, VA, 2 JANUARY 2019. The National Genealogical Society 2020 Family History Conference, *Echo of Our Ancestors*, will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, 20–23 May 2020. NGS will open the [call for proposals](#) on 2 January 2019 and proposals will be accepted until 1 April 2019.

The echoes of our ancestors resonate within us. Their voices, beliefs, cultures, choices, experiences, and traditions still influence the people we are today. We carry their physical traits in our DNA, and display some of their talents and occupational inclinations. The choices our ancestors made—including their decisions to migrate and where to settle—continue to influence new generations and are often reflected in their religion, associations, sense of cultural heritage, and ties to communities.

The study of family history gives greater meaning and dimension to our lives. As the prior generations fade from view, the results of our research illuminate the pale echoes of the past and bring our ancestors back to life to resonate for future generations. The NGS 2020 Family History Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, will explore our connections to our ancestors and the vestiges of their lives that we can discover through the records which still exist. Conference tracks under consideration include the following:

- Impact of wars, poverty, famine, persecution, and the industrial revolution on movement from ancestral homes in the Americas and abroad
- Immigration, naturalization, and passenger records
- Historical migrations, trails, and events that affected patterns of settlement
- Hard-to-find ancestors who seem to disappear from records
- Approaches to rural and urban research

- Military records
- Occupations and trades
- Modes of transportation
- Religions and related record collections
- Ethnic resources and research techniques
- Postcards, letters, diaries, and manuscripts
- Immigrant, benevolent, and religious associations
- Specialized collections of the Family History Library and other repositories

NGS also requests proposals that include the integration of DNA and technology in family history research as well as methodology and problem solving. NGS encourages proposals that demonstrate methods to help genealogists accurately identify ancestors through reasonably exhaustive research, proper source citations, analysis and correlation, resolution of conflicts, and sound reasoning and coherent writing.

Speakers who wish to submit lecture proposals may submit up to eight proposals [electronically](#). The [speaker compensation](#) is described in detail on the website. Please visit the [website](#) for details about required speaker information and each submitted proposal.

This year NGS has included a [free webinar](#), Becoming a Better Conference Speaker: Proposals and Preparations, which can be found on the National Genealogical Society YouTube channel. Speakers are encouraged to view the webinar before beginning the proposal process. Topics covered include: Lecture Proposals, Presentation, Syllabus, Communicate, and Deliver.

NGS members will receive first consideration as speakers. Notifications for acceptance will be issued in September 2019. Syllabus material, due 28 January 2020, is required for each lecture or workshop presentation and will be included in the syllabus distributed to all conference registrants. Electronic presentation programs are expected from the speakers. Presenters must provide their own digital projector, laptop, and connector to projector cable. NGS will provide projector support, which consists of a VGA or HTMI cable, cart, and power strip. Internet connections will not be provided in lecture rooms.

Sponsored Lecture Proposals

If your genealogical organization would like to sponsor a lecture, [submit proposals](#) to NGS. If your organization would like to sponsor a luncheon, please contact eshifflett@ngsgenealogy.org. Do not use the sponsored lecture form.

Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.