



Press Release

Author Ric Murphy to Discuss Virginia's First Africans at the National Genealogical Society 2021 Family History Conference

FALLS CHURCH, VA, 2 MARCH 2021 — The National Genealogical Society (NGS) [2021 Family History Conference](#) welcomes Ric Murphy, author of *Arrival of the First Africans in Virginia*, to its forty-third annual conference, 17-21 May 2021. Murphy, an educator, historian, scholar, and lecturer, will discuss how a group of thirty-two African men, women, and children from Angola arrived on the shores of Virginia in 1619. His lecture will cover the controversies sparked by their arrival and their present-day legacy.

Scheduled for 20 May, at 1:30 p.m. (EDT), Murphy's lecture is part of a full week of virtual events that will include the presentation of NGS awards; special programming for societies and organizations; and lectures by leading genealogists for people interested in family history and professional genealogists.

Other lectures that focus on African American genealogy include

- Strategies and Techniques in African American Research: Finding the Enslaved, and More by Deborah A. Abbott;
- Pitfalls and Best Practices in African American Genealogical Research by Leslie Anderson;
- Establishing the True Identities of "Felix Richards' Slaves" by Amy Bertsch;
- The Ferrell House: A Case Study in Online Virginia Historic Property Research by Katie Quick Derby;
- Going Offline: Finding African American Resources by Janice Lovelace;
- Creating a Sustainable Model for Restoring Historic African American Cemeteries: A Case Study by Brett Glymph and Viola Osborne Baskerville;

- Researching Free People of Color in Antebellum Years: 1800-1865 by Renate Yarborough Sanders; and
- Unique African American Records by Ari Wilkins.

Lovelace's lecture will be part of [NGS Live!](#), the Society's premier two-day virtual conference event on Wednesday and Thursday, 19–20 May. NGS Live! will also feature keynote speaker Barbara Vines Little as well as Eric Grundset, Thomas W. Jones, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Judy Russell, Craig Scott, and more. The other lectures will be part of [NGS On-Demand!](#) Starting in June, NGS will offer a choice of either a twenty or forty lecture package on-demand. Those who purchase a package may choose from more than [eighty-five on-demand sessions](#).

To learn more about the NGS 2021 Virtual Family History Conference's weeklong events, 17–21 May, visit the [conference website](#). A discounted Early-Bird registration fee is available through 15 March 2021.

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Contact: Matt Menashes, CAE, NGS executive director

Phone: 703-525-0050

mattm@ngsgenealogy.org

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Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) inspires, connects, and leads the family history community by fostering collaboration and best practices in advocacy, education, preservation, and research. We enable people, cultures, and organizations to discover the past and create a lasting legacy. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian.