

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **I've never been to the Fairfax Genealogical Society's Annual Conference. What can I expect?**

You can expect to attend informative and interesting lectures from experienced, knowledgeable and professional genealogists and researchers. The topics include Basic Research Techniques, Research in England, Mid-Atlantic Colonial Research, Advanced Workshops, sessions on Ancestry.com's World Archives Project and Family Search's Indexing Project.

You can also expect to browse and buy genealogical books, software and other products from some of the best known genealogical booksellers in the business along with finding that special item from a smaller vendor. As we get our vendors and exhibitors signed up, you can see the list elsewhere on our site.

You can see photos from the previous conferences at:

[www.fxgs.org/FxGS\\_2009\\_Slides/index.html](http://www.fxgs.org/FxGS_2009_Slides/index.html)

### **What is the proper attire for the conference?**

Either casual or dressed up is fine although most attendees dress casually. You are advised to wear comfortable shoes – the venue is compact but there will be standing as you browse and buy in the vendor area. Also, there may be a line for the restaurant or if you walk across the parking lot to Fair Oaks Mall for lunch. *You may also want to dress in layers.* Sometimes lecture rooms are slightly chilly or slightly warm; and someone's chilly is someone else's warm. Therefore, layers will help you cope with any temperature changes.

Photos from previous conferences may help:

[www.fxgs.org/FxGS\\_2009\\_Slides/index.html](http://www.fxgs.org/FxGS_2009_Slides/index.html)

### **Can I volunteer to help?**

Yes certainly! We would love to have you! Please contact Patricia W. McDonnell at [pwmcdonnell@verizon.net](mailto:pwmcdonnell@verizon.net) regarding volunteer opportunities. If you have previously volunteered, Pat will contact you by the end of January 2010 but you don't have wait – Pat will be glad to hear from you now.

### **I only want to visit the vendors and not attend any lectures. Can I do that?**

Yes – the Genealogy Expo in the hotel atrium is open to all at no cost. We will have some of the best booksellers and other vendors in the business and list them elsewhere on our website.

**I am a complete beginner - what will be at the conference for me? or I am a more experienced researcher - what will be at the conference for me?**

Complete beginners are very welcome to our conference and genealogy expo. Most attendees are not experts in the sessions they attend. We also have much to offer the more experienced researcher.

Track 1, *Basic Research Techniques*, by local expert Sharon Hodges, is designed for new (and not so new) genealogists. Sharon will present the sometimes involved concepts of genealogy in everyday terms so you can feel confident about starting or continuing your search.

If your research has you ready to jump the pond to Liverpool, either physically or figuratively, Track 2, *Research in England*, will teach you how to research your English roots both in the United States and in England. British National Archives expert Audrey Collins is making a special trip to visit us from her home in London. Be sure to attend her Friday evening session on 'What is Britain' even if you are attending other sessions on Saturday.

Track 3, *Mid-Atlantic Colonial Research* is for if you have done some research and need to learn the differences (and there are many significant ones) between colonial and later US records from one of our favorite speakers. You will be ready to tackle your colonial research after attending Certified Genealogist Chuck Mason's sessions.

Advanced researchers will benefit from acclaimed lecturer and Certified Genealogist Tom Jones' *Advanced Workshops*. Register right now for these workshops as we may have to limit attendance due to an expected high demand. Note that *there is a slight additional charge* for each one (\$10 each or all three for \$25) for additional material that will not be in the syllabus. Don't forget one that of them is on Friday evening.

*Lunch Time Mini-Lectures* on Ancestry.com's World Archives Project and Family Search's Indexing Project with professional genealogist Jennifer Dondero. Take a break at lunch and learn how these important indexing projects will benefit your research and how you can participate from the comfort of your home.

*Individual consultations* are available on Friday afternoon if you have specific questions or brick walls. You can discuss them with one of our speakers by signing up for a twenty-minute consultation. (See information elsewhere on the site.) Note *there is a slight additional charge* for this one-to-one consultation.

Also several of our vendors will have books and products aimed at the novice researcher where you may find an organization that can help you after the conference is over.

**I do not do Virginia research. Will this conference be for me? And I do Virginia research. Will this conference be for me?**

Of course! Although this year we do not have any lectures specifically on Virginia, we have sessions geared towards almost ALL researchers, wherever your research interests lie.

**Are conference sessions/lectures being taped this year?**

At this time, we are not taping any lectures. However, we are discussing the possibility of taping the sessions with a vendor. If we should record the sessions, we will make an announcement and post the information here.

**Will the conference syllabus be for sale?**

There may be a few available. Check the Fairfax Genealogical Society Booth. Also, there may be some available from the 2009 conference, as well as from our recent Genealogy Fairs.

**Do I have to pay the full amount to attend the conference if I just want to attend one or two lectures?**

Yes, we are not set up to handle partial day fees. However, you may sign up for Friday only or Saturday only if you wish.

**Is the conference hotel suitable for walkers and wheelchairs?**

Yes. The parking lots are right next to both the front and rear hotel entrances and on the same level. Once inside, all events – classrooms, Genealogy Expo, restrooms, coffee shop and restaurant – are on the ground floor and close to each other.

**Can I make a hotel reservation thru Fairfax Genealogical Society?**

No. You must make your reservation directly with the hotel. However, we have arranged a special conference rate of \$69 per night, single or double for the weekend, plus tax. Ask for the Fairfax Genealogical Society rate. Call the Marriott at 703-352-2525 to make a room reservation.

**More Questions?**

If you do not find the answer to your question here or at other pages, please email your question to Gordon Erickson at [conference@fxgs.org](mailto:conference@fxgs.org) or the FxGS webmaster at [webmaster@fxgs.org](mailto:webmaster@fxgs.org).