



Dear Genealogists:

Our excitement continues to grow as we plan the FGS Conference in Philadelphia in September 2008. We look forward to you joining us and other researchers from across the United States and beyond at one of our nation's most historic cities. During the conference you will hear knowledgeable presenters discussing their latest research insights and resources. The popular Exhibit Hall always showcases a wide variety of state-of-the-art and traditional products and services. Conference functions provide many opportunities to meet, talk, and share research with others who share your passion for family history.

This brochure contains preliminary information about the conference; the FGS Web site www.fgs.org also provides newsworthy items along with additional information about the conference. You can help make your conference experience smoother and more enjoyable by carefully reviewing conference updates at the Web site. Volunteers provide a blog and e-zine with updates posted regularly as conference planning develops. Knowing about changes in advance usually benefits your conference experience. These communications also post notices and reminders of attendance basics. If this is your first national conference, these updates help you prepare for a truly enjoyable and educational experience.

We want your conference experience to be as comfortable and as enjoyable as possible. Attendees typically bring a sweater and comfortable walking shoes. Well-planned luncheons make noontime meals an important part of the conference experience. Other venues nearby also provide places to dine. Contact the Philadelphia Visitors Bureau for assistance in planning your stay. If you have questions about airline travel, contact our airline agent Nancy Mettes at 800-999-6101 or Nancy.Mettes@damartravel.com. She is happy to help you locate the best flight fare. Tell her that you want to make your reservation for the FGS Conference in Philadelphia and let her know if you are a senior citizen (65).

Philadelphia offers a multitude of things to do. Libraries, national archives, historic sites, sporting events, museums, other archives, shopping centers, and much more—located within a short distance from the Conference location—provide genealogists with a treasure trove of activities. The Conference Hospitality Booth provides information about these local attractions.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and numerous organizations in the Mid-Atlantic states look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bebout Elliott, Ph.D., President, FGS

Philadelphia Welcomes FGS 2008 Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and several genealogical and historical groups in and around Philadelphia invite you to join them in Philadelphia in September 2008, for the “**Footprints of Family History**” conference. They are proud of their Mid-Atlantic heritage and just as proud of their part in promoting the future of family history in the nation and throughout the world. Their facilities for research seem innumerable and range from local to regional, state, and national. It seems that we may locate those “footprints” of our ancestors in numerous facilities in the greater Philadelphia area.

The conference hotel will be the downtown Marriott Hotel, connected to the Philadelphia Convention Center where the exhibition hall and seminar rooms will be located. Several convenient hotels are within walking distance from the Convention Center, as is the Reading Terminal Market, a unique shopping and eating area. The public bus system and SEPTA trains are available to meet your local transportation needs.

The September 2008 FGS conference has as its theme “Footprints of Family History” recognizing our host city Philadelphia as the place where the ancestors of millions of Americans first set foot on the continent. It was Philadelphia, indeed, that was the largest North American city in colonial times – as well as being the No. 1 port of entry during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Our conference committee is fashioning a program that pays homage to this region's rich history as well as topics at the very cutting-edge of family history, including:

- Research in the Mid-Atlantic states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware
- DNA's ever large impact on genealogy
- Tracks on area's major ethnic groups such as the English, Irish, Swedish and Germans
- Topics helpful to African-American research
- How “material culture” can enrich family history
- Society management presentations
- Military records relating to a variety of conflicts

We hope that our conference will be a focal point for all that the Philadelphia region has to offer in terms of history, research, sightseeing and education.

James Beidler, National Conference Co-Chairman

EXHIBITS

Please plan time to walk through the exhibit hall and view the wide variety of the newest and best genealogical publications, supplies, and computer products available. Browse through books and purchase those that will help your research. Vendors from near and far will be displaying their products; they are there to demonstrate their latest offerings and to answer your questions.

SOCIETIES ON PARADE

Strut Your Stuff! Publicize Your Society! Market Your Seminar!

"Societies on Parade" tables are where you may put out your society brochures, advertisements for your publications, your seminar registration forms, and your society meeting information and membership forms. Some societies display new books, feature bright and attractive brochures; you may place anything you'd like out on the tables (which are untended, so you wouldn't want to leave anything of value) for viewing by the conference public and hopefully, picked up by interested persons.

Take advantage of this conference opportunity to strut your society!

Accommodations, Travel and Other Information

CONFERENCE SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The Marriott Philadelphia Downtown is the official conference hotel with connecting walkway to the Pennsylvania Convention Center (PCC). The Marriott and PCC are the sites of all the seminars, luncheons and banquets. A block of rooms is being held for FGS at the Marriott Downtown Philadelphia. Be sure to let the hotel know that you are registering for the rooms under the "Federation of Genealogical Societies" contract. Prices do not include room tax. *We suggest that you make your reservations early as the conference hotels frequently fill quickly.*

Marriott Philadelphia Downtown

1201 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-625-2900

Cost \$159 per night

Reservations 1-800-228-9290, mention FGS or Federation of Genealogical Societies. This is a non-smoking hotel. For details and directions:

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/phldt>

Philadelphia Information

For complete and up-to-date details to enhance your historic Philadelphia visit, including an official visitor's guide: www.philadelphiausa.travel

TRANSPORTATION

Travel to the Convention Center from the airport, either by taxi or train to the Market East station via Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. For driving directions and transportation options:

<http://marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/phldt-philadelphia-marriott-downtown/>

PARKING

Many parking facilities are available. The Marriott Hotel offers valet parking for a fee. For a map and list of nearby parking locations:

www.paconvention.com > Click on **Visitors**

AIRLINE AGENT

Nance Mettes of Damar Travel will be happy to help you with your airline travel **only**. Please mention if you are a senior citizen (65). Call (800) 999-6101 or e-mail nancy.mettes@damartravel.com. Tell her you want to make your reservation for the 2008 FGS Conference in Philadelphia.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Ask at Information Center near baggage claim.

AMTRAK

(800-USA-Rail) (<http://www.amtrak.com/>)

Amtrak offers full service to Philadelphia including their Acela trains. Use special fair code **X74R-931 for a 10% discount.**

SEPTA

(215-580-7800) (<http://www.septa.org/>)

SEPTA offers train service to Philadelphia as well as suburban Delaware Valley locations, including Trenton, NJ, and Wilmington, Del. and the airport.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Federation of Genealogical Societies
P.O. Box 200940

Austin, TX 78720-0940

Phone: 888-FGS-1500 toll free

Fax: 888-380-0500 toll free

E-mail: office@fgs.org

Web site: www.fgs.org

CONFERENCE E-ZINE

Receive our monthly electronic newsletter offering conference highlights, hotel and travel information, as well as news about Philadelphia and nearby historic sites, research repositories and interesting stories. To make your visit memorable, sign up for the conference e-zine at www.fgs.org.

QUESTIONS?

Ask away at the conference blog at www.fgs.org.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

All registrations for the conference (prepaid and walk-in) will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Tuesday | 3:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday | 6:30 am - 7:30 pm |
| Thursday | 7:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| Friday | 7:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| Saturday | 7:00 am - 10:00 am |

CANCELLATION POLICY

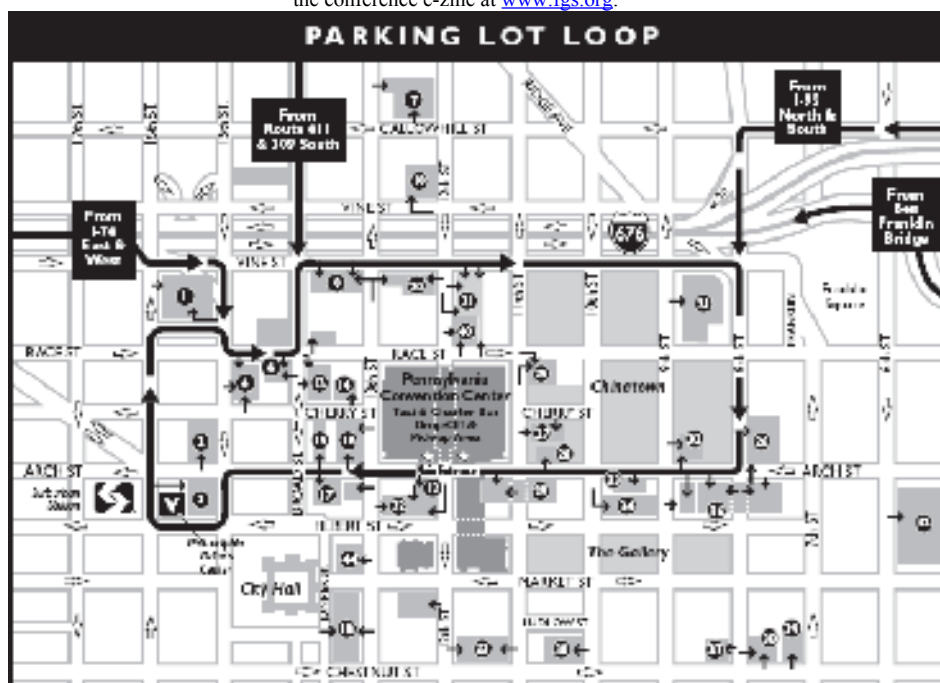
All cancellations must be received in the FGS office by fax or e-mail by 3 August 2008 or postmarked by 3 August 2008. Registrants who send cancellations by 3 August 2008 will receive a full refund on all meal functions and their registration fee minus a \$40 nonrefundable administration charge. For cancellations postmarked after 3 August 2008 or for non-attendance, registrants will receive a copy of the syllabus.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Registrants with a special needs requirement as outlined in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) must notify FGS in writing of these special needs no later than 2 July 2008. We regret that special meal considerations cannot be accommodated after that date.

EXHIBIT HALL WILL BE OPEN

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Wednesday | 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm |
| Thursday | 11:30 am - 6:30 pm |
| Friday | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| Saturday | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |



Register online at www.fgs.org

FGS 2008 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Mail your completed form and payment to:

FGS 2008 Conference (September 3 – 6)

P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940

Phone: 1-888-FGS-1500 E-mail: office@fgs.org



The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania



Among the many research facilities and groups in Philadelphia that are within a stone's throw of the conference are:

- The **Historical Society of Pennsylvania**, 1300 Locust St., with the largest genealogical collection in the Mid-Atlantic states
- The **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania**, now housed in HSP, founded in 1892
- The **National Archives, Mid-Atlantic Region**, 900 Market St. (with entrance on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th streets), which houses federal records from Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia
- The **Free Library of Philadelphia**, Central Library, 1901 Vine St., with extensive holdings

Check all that apply: 1st FGS Conference
 Society Officer Librarian
 FGS Delegate Archivist
 (If Delegate - Society Name _____)

Special Meals and ADA Requests:
 Vegetarian _____ Other (specify _____)

ADA Requirements (specify _____)

Cancellation Policy: Full refund (minus \$40 service fee) granted upon request prior to 3 August 2008. See page 3 for additional details.

VOLUNTEER – The volunteer chair will contact you.

- Check box if you want to be a volunteer before conference.
- Check box if you want to be a volunteer during conference.

Early Registration (Postmarked by 2 June 2008):

Full Conference Registration (Wed. through Sat.) \$175 \$____
 Single Day Registration (check one)
 Wed. Thurs Fri Sat. \$95 \$____
 Check if registering for Librarians Day (No Charge)

Registration (Postmarked after 2 June 2008):

Full Conference Registration (Wed. through Sat.) \$225 \$____
 Single Day Registration (check one)
 Wed. Thurs Fri Sat. \$125 \$____
 Check if registering for Librarians Day (No Charge)

Syllabus – A program syllabus CD is included free with registration. A printed copy can be purchased for an additional \$30. \$30 \$____

FGS Forum subscription at conference rate of \$15/yr \$____
 Dollars for Documents/Stern NARA Gift Fund donation \$____
 I want to become a Friend of FGS by making a donation \$____

Total Payment: _____

FGS 2008 Conference (September 3 – 6)

Please print name as it should appear on the conference name tag. Use a separate form for each person. This form may be duplicated.

Name: _____
 First Name Middle/Maiden Last Postnominals (18 character limit)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to: **FGS 2008 Conference**. If paying by **credit card**: (please circle) Visa or Master Card.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____