



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

**November 2012**

## NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, November 18, 2012** Time: **2:00 – 4:30 PM**

Place: The Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

## Open Genealogical Research

Our program for November will be an **Open Genealogical Research** time at the Historical Society of Harford County, with department experts available for personal assistance. We will also be holding a brief General Membership meeting to elect Officers and Board Members for the 2013-2014 term.

Gather your research schedules, notes, thoughts, and sticking points. Start preparing by reviewing your genealogical data for brick-walls and un-resolved clues, and then update your research schedules. Genealogy help will be available, and Historical Society of Harford County research experts in Family History, Research Library, Court Records, Photographs, and Archives collections will be on-hand to assist with manual and PastPerfect™ database searches. History and Genealogy buffs interested in Harford County and surrounding areas are welcome.

## 2013 Membership Dues

Enclosed is our 2013 Membership Application and Renewal form for your convenience. Payment is requested before **February 15, 2013**. Additional forms are available on our website. We are always interested in your thoughts for improving our Society. Please jot down your ideas in the SUGGESTIONS section of the form.

Your support allows the Society to continue to publish research works, share information, help improve your research skills, and distribute this Newsletter.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

<p>For the latest information see our <b>HCGS</b> website <a href="http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/">www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/</a></p>	<p>We also post our upcoming events on the <b>BelAirPatch</b> <a href="http://www.BelAirPatch.com/events/">www.BelAirPatch.com/events/</a></p>
<p>“Like” our  at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989</a></p>	<p>And on  <a href="http://www.DaggerPress.com">www.DaggerPress.com</a></p>
<p><b>YAHOO! GROUPS</b> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com">http://groups.yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>HaCoGenSoc:</b> <i>Join in after receiving your invitation.</i></p>

## MEETING SCHEDULE: Spring & November

We hold two general program meetings per year, usually at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you will see elsewhere in the November Newsletter, there is a vacancy on the Society's Board of Advisers for the 2013-2014 term. Since my joining the Society in 2002, the Board has always been short one position (i.e., Past President) because the past president has always had to assume some (other) position in the subsequent term. That means that we are actually down two Board members. The slate can be amended from the floor, so please consider volunteering ... *the November meeting is not too late*. The Board has been meeting on Sunday afternoons in the months there is no general meeting, but the schedule has, and can, be changed to meet the needs of the majority of the advisers.

At the July meeting, the program speaker was Ann Winkler of the Harford County Public Library. Ann leads a genealogy research group (not specific to Harford research) at HCPL's Whiteford branch. One of the items Ann discussed was a "Yahoo! Group." This is a different type of forum from our Rootsweb Message Board. The two most noticeable differences: 1) limited access photos, databases, links, and files can be posted for members to view, comment on, and provide feedback; 2) the Group messages are sent to your Yahoo! eMail account, whereas on Rootsweb you have to go to the Message Board. The Group can be 'open' to the world or 'closed' (i.e., by invitation only). I have set up a closed Yahoo! Group for the Society. The world can only see that the group exists, but can not see any of the content (e.g., who is a member, what messages or images have been posted). I will be sending an "invitation to join" to all the member e-mails for which we have a record. If you do not wish to join, just delete and ignore the invitation ... I recognize that some members may not wish to have information "pushed to them" via Yahoo! and would rather "pull the information" from Rootsweb.

As I have had a Yahoo! account for sometime, I suspected that the process I went thru to join (after inviting myself to the Group) might be slightly different from someone who does not have an existing Yahoo! account. Therefore, I invited our Newsletter Editor, Rich Appel, to join. Rich has documented his experience / process, and his step-by-step guide follows in this issue.

If few members accept "the invitation," or after the group uses it a while we find it not to be useful, then I will just let the Group die off. This *should be* a reasonable way for our distant membership to share information with and gain information from our local membership. Once a few folks have accepted, I will try to post something to get the ball rolling (admittedly I have no clue what that will be at this point). I hope that you will at least give it a try.

In addition to the elections, we will also have a research day with Historical Society and Genealogical Society folks available to help. I hope to see you there. - Doug

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## HaCoGenSoc: Yahoo! Group

### Initial sign-up sequence:

An invitation to join our Society's Yahoo! Group will be eMailed to each member for whom we have an E-mail address on file. This is a closed (i.e., private, restricted) group available to our membership only.

#### Open the eMailed invite from **Yahoo! Groups Invitation**

The invite reads: **"You have been invited to join HaCoGenSoc group!"**

This invitation expires in 30 days, so sign-up soon, but you can always un-enroll.

Click on **"Join this group!"** to open an internet browser link to Yahoo!

Your internet browser will open a **Yahoo! Groups –Invitation to Join HaCoGenSoc** page.

After reading the invitation, click on the blue **Join the group** link to start the sign-up process.

*An alternative option, shown at the bottom in small print, lets you limit your access, by only signing-up for the mailing list. Click on the blue **join the mailing list instead** to continue.*

More on page 3

The sign-up process begins on the **Sign in to Yahoo!** page titled **Your World Your Way** (subject to change) in a **Sign in to Yahoo!** Box on the left.

If you already have a Yahoo! Email account (ex. @yahoo.com, @ymail.com, or @rocketmail.com) enter your **Yahoo! ID** and **Password** and click on **Sign in**.

If you do not have an account, click on **Create New Account** at the bottom of the box.

There are also options to sign-in with **Facebook** or **Google** or request **Help**.

If you are creating a new Yahoo! Account, you will be taken to a fill-in-the-blanks page that asks you to identify yourself, Select a Yahoo! User ID, and Password, and provide two verification Questions with Answers. At the bottom of this page there is a request to respond to a code, followed by clicking on **Create My Account**. This code response is the type often seen on banking web pages and prevents hackers from automatically enrolling thousands of bogus entries.

If you fail to complete one of the fields or make an unacceptable entry, the page will be redisplayed with an appropriate error message(s). Fix the noted problems, click on Try a new code, and then respond to the refreshed verification image, followed again by **Create My Account**.

When your account has been successfully created, you will land on the **HaCoGenSoc: Join This Group** page. Verify your profile information in three steps:

Step 1: **Your Contact Information** -User ID & eMail Address options.

Step 2: **Message Delivery** -options.

Step 3: **Message Preference** -options

Next there is a request to respond to a verification code, followed by clicking on **Join** at the far right in a group of three Join, **Reset**, or **Cancel** buttons.

This **Join** link will land you on the **HaCoGenSoc: Membership Confirm** page, where you should review your inputs and select **Edit** (to fix errors) or **Continue**.

This **Continue** link will land you on the **HaCoGenSoc: Harford County Genealogical Society** Home page that will also be the same landing page each time you sign-in in the future. Always verify that your name (or alias) appears after the greeting **Hi ...** in the upper left.

To leave the **HaCoGenSoc: Harford County Genealogical Society** group, click on the **Sign Out** link in the upper left. We do not recommend staying signed-in continually.

If you jump to the Home page without signing-in your ability to make selections will be limited to reading the **Group Description** until you **Join This Group!** and formally sign-in.

## Every Day sign-in sequence:

Following the initial joining process, on a day-to-day basis you would go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and sign in as shown here below. You should Bookmark this page in your Browser for future access!

New User? Register **Sign In** Help

Make Y! My Homepage

Mail My Y! Yahoo!

YAHOO! GROUPS

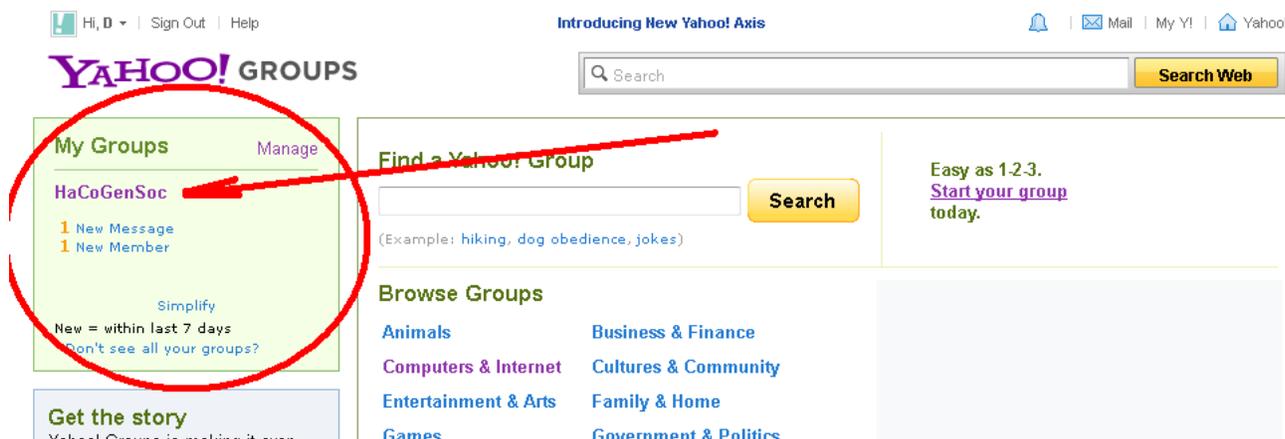
Search Search Web

Connect with a world of people who share your passions.

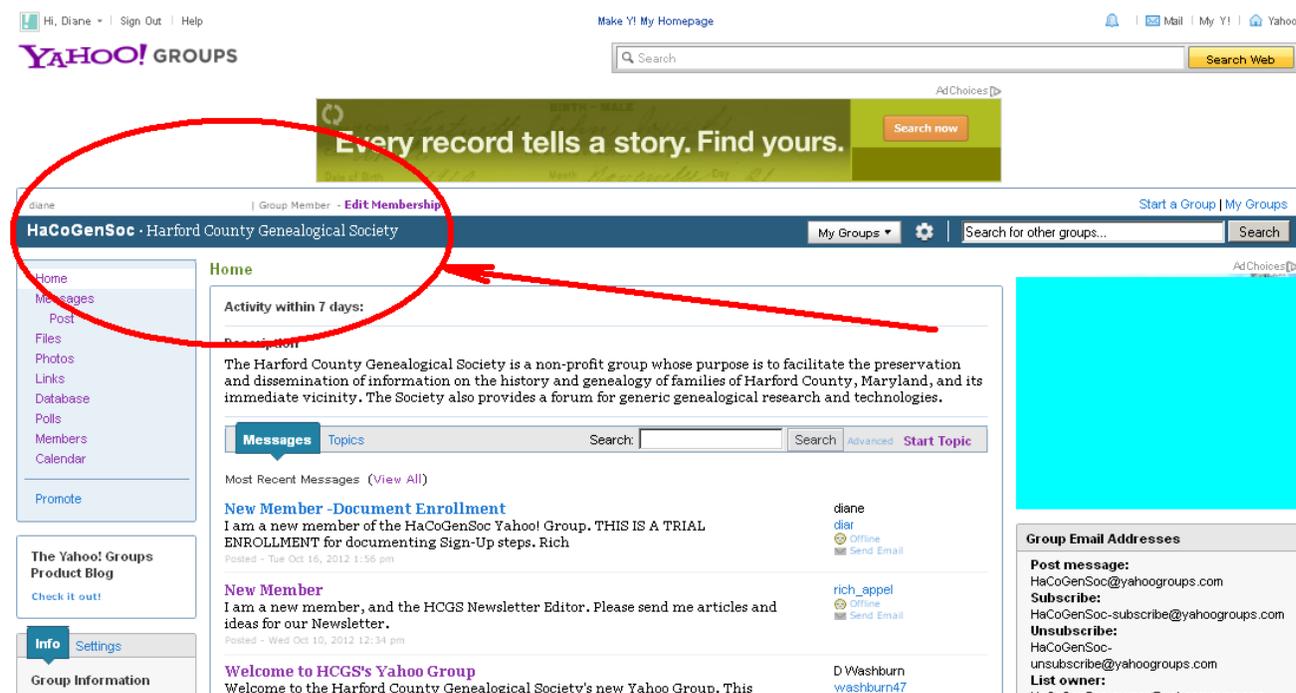
With millions of groups at your fingertips, it's easy to find the group that's best for you -- no matter your interest.

New to Groups? [Sign Up.](#) Already a Yahoo! Groups member? [Sign In.](#)

After signing-in, you will be taken to the generic Yahoo! Groups page with an inventory of the groups you have joined, listed in the column to the left. In this case, there is only one group shown in the list **HaCoGenSoc**.



After selecting our **HaCoGenSoc** group, you will land our group's activity page as shown below.



Take the time to read the **Yahoo! Groups** tips. Add folders, files, photos, calendar items, and communicate with other members. Ask questions, ask for assistance, and respond to topics of interest, or knowledge.

With everyone's participation we can make this Group and our Society grow in numbers and closeness.

*Doug & Rich*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**HCGS 1979 CHARTER MEMBER Betty Day Weinzirl 1931 – 2012**

## NOMINEES FOR SOCIETY GOVERNANCE

Nominations of HCGS Board members & Officers for the 2013-2014 term are still being accepted. Elections will be held at the General Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> and a tentative slate is presented below.

Please contact Rich Appel or any member of the Board, if you are willing to serve in any capacity. Nominations for all offices will be accepted until the elections are held. Please consider serving our Society by volunteering to be an advisor or officer.

Currently the following persons have been asked, and are willing to serve, or step aside.

### OFFICE

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Advisor (3 ea)

### NOMINEES

\***Doug Washburn**  
\***Jon Livezey**  
\***Betsy Keithley**  
\***Arch Phillips**  
vacant, \***Kathy Glackin**, \***Chris Smithson**

The President serves as the Chairperson of the Board of Advisors. Non-Elected positions on the Board of Advisors are:

Immediate Past President	* <b>Arch Phillips</b> (served as President 2007-2010)
Program Chairman	vacant
Newsletter Editor	* <b>Rich Appel</b>

Again we urge you to support our Society by assuming a leadership position.

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## 2011-2012 HCGS DIRECTORY

<b>President:</b>	Doug Washburn	<a href="mailto:Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net">Douglas.Washburn@verizon.net</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Close	<a href="mailto:CMCjkc@comcast.net">CMCjkc@comcast.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Arch Phillips	<a href="mailto:anmPhill@qis.net">anmPhill@qis.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Betsy Keithley	<a href="mailto:JeffKandBetsyK@comcast.net">JeffKandBetsyK@comcast.net</a>
<b>Advisors At Large:</b>	Jon H. Livezey	<a href="mailto:jLivezey@comcast.net">jLivezey@comcast.net</a>
	Chris Smithson	<a href="mailto:ctSmithson@gmail.com">ctSmithson@gmail.com</a>
	Kathy Glackin	<a href="mailto:KathleenGlackin@gmail.com">KathleenGlackin@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Rich Appel	<a href="mailto:Richard.Appel3@verizon.net">Richard.Appel3@verizon.net</a>

**Web Site:** [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/)

**eMail:** [HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net](mailto:HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net)

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## GENEALOGY TIDBITS

### Cluster Genealogy

“Cluster Genealogy,” is this a concept that you should keep in mind when doing your research? Emily Croom, in her work titled *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for more successful family history research*, devotes a twelve page chapter to what some call the “whole family” approach to genealogical research.

She talks about Why the cluster, and Who is in the cluster, then describes How to blend this concept into your approach to researching family histories. To help drive home the ideas of cluster genealogy she concludes with a three page case study including an ancestral chart. I found her presentation skills to be enlightening and entertaining.

Her basic thesis is that our ancestors did not live in a vacuum, but in a cluster of relatives, neighbors, friends, and associates. These people supported each other, worshiped together, sold property to each other, migrated together, intermarried, and were buried together. Before the 1940's, communication

and transportation were clustered not dispersed as in much of today's world. With this being true, we should expect to find bits of information related an ancestor in the written history / records of those "clustered" around our ancestor.

In general, Croom's book contrasts similarities between many of the procedures used by famous criminal detectives, to methods that could aid our genealogical research efforts. This is the entertaining part of her work. Planning your search, gathering documents, examining evidence, and arranging your findings are among the topics discussed.

It is worth the time to read study, and should make your research more productive.

Croom, Emily Anne; *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for more successful family history research*; Betterway Books, Cincinnati, OH; 2000; 290 pp., pbk; ISBN 9781558705326, HCPL Call No. 929.1 C. Used ~\$8. A newer edition was released in 2009, and sells for \$38.

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### One-Step Webpages from Stephen P. Morse, PhD

I was directed to this site by Dottie Aleshire, Howard Co. Genealogical Society, during her *Navigating the 1940 Census* seminar at the Baltimore Family History Workshop in October. She told the group that "Steve Morse, who builds these wonderful search engines, has developed one to help find Enumeration District Numbers." She also mentioned that Morse had a few other "wonderful little search engines" for genealogists and historians. Being a genealogist drove him to try and make researching our ancestors a little easier.

Well, I was taken back by the variety, wealth, and ease of use of these "little" tools, and the associated instructions and tutorials. Take a trip to [www.SteveMorse.org](http://www.SteveMorse.org) and tell me what you think. Better yet, pick a search engine and write an article for our Newsletter. Tell me what you are doing, so we can have others work on different engines.

Oh by the way, Steve is also the 1978 architect of the now famous Intel 8086 computer microprocessor. It is no wonder the US Government asked him to help with the 1940 census indexing.

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### Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812

This article is a solicitation for funds.

"Preserve the Pensions" is a major effort to digitize and index 7.2 million pages of long neglected fragile original War of 1812 Pension records. The NARA will archive the digital data, and Fold3.com will host the images and index for everyone to search at no cost.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), in collaboration with Ancestry.com (owners of Fold3.com), FamilySearch.org, and the NARA, is leading this effort. We the researchers are being asked to donate funds needed to complete this task, while Ancestry.com is matching those donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$3,700,000.

Currently ~360,000 (5%) of those original pages have been processed, so the project is setup and moving forward. We can help sustain this effort through our contributions. Just go online to:

[www.fgs.org/cstm\\_PreserveThePensions.php](http://www.fgs.org/cstm_PreserveThePensions.php) to donate using    .

Those completed pages and more information are available at: [www.fgs.org/1812](http://www.fgs.org/1812)

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## GENEALOGY FEATURE

## MD Genealogical Society -Fall Conference

In September the Maryland Genealogical Society held its all-day Fall Conference in Bowie, MD. There were about sixty attendees at the conference that provided some new and interesting information.

Among the five seminar presenters was our Society's own Jon Harlan Livezey, who is also a Maryland Genealogical Society Fellow, Past President, and former Board member. He can be seen here at the podium delivering his talk titled *Using Chancery / Equity Records in Maryland Genealogy*. Jon's material was similar to his September HCGS presentation, and very polished. He covered the many types of cases heard before the court, the evolution of the court's jurisdictions and procedures, terminology used, plus the value of these court records to the genealogist. One tidbit to keep in mind is that before 1969, judicial distribution or sales of real property (change of land ownership) by the Chancery Court were recorded in the Court, so those deeds were not usually filed in the Land Records.



Douglas McElrath, oversees the rare and special subject collections of University of Maryland, at the Hornbake Library, one of seven libraries on the College Park campus. His talk titled *Genealogical Resources of the U of MD Libraries*, centered on family history related collections, and the tools to access them. Besides the overwhelming amount of material related to Maryland there were two especially useful collections. One is fully searchable Maryland newspapers beyond just the Sun Paper and News American, and they are still looking for more papers, from every corner of the state, to digitize. Another collection is of papers from more than 500 Maryland families. If your ancestor was associated with a wealthy family, they were probably noted in these papers. Particularly exciting was information about their website that hosts their archives index with abstracts. <http://www.lib.umd.edu/info/catalogs> then click on **Classic Catalog**.

For me, the session on *Using Maryland Land Records Online* by self-proclaimed expert Paul Izat, was not new material, and did little to teach the novice how to use these tools to search Maryland and records. He did point out, with Jon's help, that the clause "*BEING the same property that by deed dated...*" was not introduced into Maryland deeds until 1900. Very helpful were his references to books by: Mullins, Clements, Burgess, Peden, Hait, and Wildi, that those searching land records should become acquainted.

Of a timely interest was the talk by Marie Melchiori, CG, CGL who specializes in Union and Confederate records at the NARA, and often lectures at many genealogical conferences. Her topic was the *War of 1812 Records in the National Archives*, and highlighted some important Record Groups (500 in total): RG-15 Bounty Land Applications (Widows index), RG-59 Department of State (Privateers, POWs, Enemy Aliens), RG-94 Volunteer Soldiers (officers & enlisted), and RG-233 House of Representatives (application for pension claims). All-in-all she dumped a plethora of information on the audience, plus a five page handout of reference information. I was exhausted and needed a break afterwards.

The last presentation was an introduction to *The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland* by Christos Christou, Jr. as well as a pitch to join the group. He covered the history of the organization from its 1814 founding, membership qualifications, service requirements, and the purpose of the society. Our own Henry Peden is the current genealogist officer for the society, and can answer questions for you. The University of Baltimore currently holds the archives for this Society, which maintains a vast collection of ancestral charts and supporting evidence. This speaker is a young energetic ambassador for the Society, who is bent on taking advantage of the War of 1812 Anniversary publicity.

By now you can probably guess my next comment. Get out and expose your mind to new ways and places to carry out genealogical research. None of us knows it all or can remember all of what they were told before, so continue your education, read, attend seminars, and attend a Genealogical Conference somewhere. *Oh, and tell us about your experience.*

Rich Appel

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## GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

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### **Reginald F. Lewis Museum: GENEALOGY SERIES**

Date: **10 Nov 2012** (Sat) Program: 1:00 pm

Place: **Reginald F. Lewis Museum**, 830 E. Pratt St; Baltimore MD 21202

Registration: Fee \$5.00 Register by calling the Museum at 443-263-1816  
or email [resourcecenter@maamc.org](mailto:resourcecenter@maamc.org)



Program: **Finding Family in the Freedmen's Bureau Records.** Reginald Washington, African American records specialist at NARA, will discuss the records of the Freedmen's Bureau. Established in 1865, this agency oversaw all matters involving freedmen and abandoned lands after the Civil War. These records include marriage registers, labor contracts, registers identifying occupations of freedmen and their former owners, and data of African American soldiers from about 1865 to 1880. Washington is also the author of the NARA [Ref Info Paper 108](#), *Black Family Research: Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies of the National Archives*, Revised 2010, 32 pages. NARA papers can be downloaded in pdf format.

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### **2013 National Genealogical Society Conference**

Date: **8-11 May 2013** (Wed-Sat) +Bus tour on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>

Place: **The Las Vegas Convention Center** in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Registration: Registration opens December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

Visit [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info)

Contact: [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org) or 1-800-473-0060



Program: **Building New Bridges**, a four-day conference offers more than 150 lectures on researching peoples and places of the West, migration to and from the West, law, military records, immigration, methodology, academic history, family history writing, Board for Certification of Genealogists® Skillbuilding, African American and other ethnic research, technological innovation in genealogy (GenTech), and more.

A 6-hour bus tour to Hoover Dam & Clark County Museum is available before the conference begins on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Save the date and look for details after December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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### **2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference**

Date: **21-24 August 2013** (Wed-Sat) +Librarian's Day Tuesday Aug 20

Place: **Fort Wayne, Indiana**

Registration: See: <http://www.fgs.org> later next year for details

see preview flyer at [http://www.fgs.org/upload/files/FGS2013\\_Conference\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.fgs.org/upload/files/FGS2013_Conference_Flyer.pdf)



Program: **Journey Through Generations**

Fort Wayne, Indiana, is home to *The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library*, a HCGS member.

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## FUTURE MEETING

Our Society is planning a **HEREDITARY SOCIETY FAIR** in the spring of 2013 at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. Several local Hereditary Societies have agreed to setup tables and introduce you to their societies and their value to members. Each one of these groups has ancestral records linking their members to historical events. Please look for our announcements, and plan on bring some friends.

See our Newsletters, our website [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/) other online venues, Facebook, BelairPatch, The\_Dagger, and our new Yahoo!\_Group, for the latest information.