On Friday, 18 October 2019, VGS and the staff at the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) of the Earl Gregg Swem Library, invite you to spend the day touring and researching in the Library.

On Saturday, 19 October 2019, VGS invites you to spend the day with Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, and Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL, as they share their knowledge of genealogical resources, research techniques, and methodologies.

Details on times, places, and prices for the above activities are included in this brochure.

About the Conference
FRIDAY PROGRAM – 18 October 2019
Swem Library, College of William & Mary
400 Landrum Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23186

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Research at the Library
- Library staff will be available to answer questions concerning the Library’s collections and their use.

Conference Room - Swem Library, College of William & Mary 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Consultations in the Special Collections Classroom - Experienced researchers will be available to answer questions, provide individual assistance to beginners, and offer strategies for difficult genealogical problems.

Note: Conference registration is not required to attend the event at the Library or the consultations in the Special Collections Classroom.

Hotel Note: The conference hotel, The Historic Powhatan Resort, 3601 Ironbound Rd, Williamsburg, VA, is offering the following special room rates:

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<th>Date</th>
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Quoted rates do not include $15 per night resort fee, 12% Sales/occupancy tax, a $2 city tax, and a $100 refundable incidental deposit (collected at check-in).

Call the Resort’s reservations department at (800) 438-2929 to make reservations before 17 September 2019. Ask for the Virginia Genealogical Society rate. Additional information for the reservations can be found on the VGS website http://www.vgs.org.

ABOUT VGS
The Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS) was formed 7 October 1960. Our mission is to promote and foster family history education and research, publish genealogical information, and share accumulated knowledge. VGS fulfills this mission through its publications, its twice-yearly conferences, and its website http://www.vgs.org.

Members of the society receive the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, the VGS Newsletter, discounts to society conferences, and a 20% discount on most society publications. Membership in the society is $40 per year for individuals ($75 for two years and $110 for three years) or $45 per year for family ($85 for two years and $125 for three years). For additional information about membership, please visit our website.

Swimming for Genealogy at the William & Mary Libraries
Named for Dr. Earl Gregg Swem, noted Virginia genealogist, historian, and librarian, the Swem Library with its Special Collections Research Center and the Mary and Dennis Re Collection has a rich genealogical collection of both published and published sources. The Re Collection, housed in the general stacks, includes unpublished family histories and abstracts of wills, deeds, marriages, births, and court records, and not only from Virginia’s counties, but other states, such as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York. Also, onsite visitors to the Library are able to access a number of databases useful for genealogical research, including Ancestry.com (Library Edition), America’s Historical Newspapers, Biography and Genealogy Master Index, Colonial America, Colonial State Papers, Virginia Company Archives Online, and Pennsylvania Genealogical Catalog. The Special Collections Research Center in Swem Library has personal and family papers, church records, and county records that contain important information for genealogists researching specific families or localities. The research files of several notable genealogists, Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger, Young Tyree, William Carter Stubbins, Lyon G. Tyler, and Thomas Teackle Upshur, documenting much of Tidewater Virginia, are also in the Special Collections. For more detailed information on the genealogical resources available at the William & Mary Libraries, please see: Genealogy Resources at Swem Library: https://guides.libraries.wm.edu/genealogy2

Speakers
Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL Rebecca holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and as a Certified Genealogical LecturerSM. Her focuses are Maryland and military records at the National Archives, especially those of the War of 1812. She has been organizing and lecturing since 2004. Rebecca is the Course 1 coordinator for The Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR). She has spoken for the National Genealogical Society Conference (NGS), Association of Professional Genealogists Conference (APG), The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (FGS), RootsTech, webinars for Legacy and APG, the Maryland State Archives, and for groups in surrounding states. She has published articles in the NGS Magazine, APG Magazine, SAR Magazine, and the Maryland Genealogical Society Journal and is a former board member of the Maryland Genealogical Society.

Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS) 18-19 October 2019
Finding Your Hidden Ancestors

Using Research Essentials

Williamsburg, Va.
Register online at http://www.vgs.org & click on “Register on EventBrite” or complete the registration (reverse side) and mail to:

VGS Fall Conference P.O. Box 626 Orange, Virginia 22960
Speakers (cont.)

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Tom has been pursuing his ancestry since 1963. For the first twenty years he was clueless about what he was trying to accomplish and how to do it. When he started climbing the genealogy learning curve he repeatedly experienced the challenges, joys, and rewards of tracing ancestors reliably and fully understanding their lives. Tom eventually became an award-winning writer, board-certified genealogist, editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, recipient of honors from genealogical organizations, and author of the textbooks Mastering Genealogical Proofs and Mastering Genealogical Documentation. Using his nearly lifelong career in education as a springboard, he enjoys teaching at weeklong genealogy institutes, weekend seminars, and local, national, and international genealogy conferences.

Speakers for this Conference were provided by funds from the Richard Slatten Endowment for Virginia History of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia.

Saturdays Program

19 October 2019

Saint Bede Catholic Church
3686 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, Va. 23188

Conference Schedule

9:00-9:45 a.m. Registration
9:45-10:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

Finding Hidden and Disappearing Ancestors
(Track 1) Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

10:00-11:00 a.m. (S-11) Finding “Unfindable” Ancestors — The failure of common research practices to identify ancestors does not mean they are unfindable. This session will describe and demonstrate nine approaches to locating difficult-to-trace ancestors.

11:00-11:30 a.m. Break
11:30-12:30 p.m. (S-12) Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was (Some Reliable and Others Not Reliable) — Case studies will illustrate five ways—some reliable and others not—that genealogists “prove” an ancestor’s identity: using information provided by others; using a single source; following a chain of evidence; correlating evidence from multiple sources; and weighing conflicting evidence. Attendees will learn how to use the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) to identify their ancestors accurately.

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30-2:30 p.m. (S-13) Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages — Genealogists often are frustrated by record shortages and surviving records that do not specify relationships. Using the analogy of assembling a jigsaw puzzle with many missing and damaged pieces, a case study will demonstrate how to use clues to identify ancestors successfully.

2:30-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:00 p.m. (S-14) Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor — Genealogists may be frustrated by not finding ancestors in the records and places where they logically expect them to be. This session will explain seven reasons why such ancestors seem to have disappeared, provides examples of each from actual case studies, and suggest strategies to help attendees find their elusive ancestors.

It’s All About Land and Research Essentials
(Track 2) Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

10:00-11:00 a.m. (S-21) Research Logs, Research Plans, and Timelines: Write or Regret It! Organizing is key to understanding. If you can’t find it, how can you compare and analyze the facts and clues in your ancestor’s life? This lecture introduces three organizational tools and how they can work together to improve your analyzation skills and get closer to finding the answers you need.

11:00-11:30 a.m. Break
11:30-12:30 p.m. (S-22) State-Land-State Deed Records 101: Understanding, Mapping and Finding Patterns. Land records, like many court documents, can be confusing. This lecture will discuss the post-colonial private transaction land records found across much of the east coast. We will dissect the description of the lands into something we can map and compare to local geography of the time.

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30-2:30 p.m. (S-23) Land Records: Rich Resources for your Research. Land ownership was a major goal for many ancestors. Land and property records are often undervalued but can be exactly the clue you need to put together the pieces of your ancestor’s life. We will discuss how and where to find land records and review case studies about important relationship clues in land records.

2:30-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:00 p.m. (S-24) Military Bounty-Land Records: Revolution to Mexican War. Obtaining military bounty-land was a valuable compensation offered to many veterans and their families before the American Civil War, but is not often explored. This lecture will discuss a few of the changing laws regarding bounty-land and where the genealogically-rich applications for those records may be found.

Vendors of books, software, forms, and other items of interest to researchers will be available all day on Saturday. Be sure to visit them during the breaks. There will also be a Freebie Table with catalogs and brochures from genealogical businesses and organizations as well as door prizes.

Finding Your Hidden Ancestors Using Research Essentials

Fall 2019 REGISTRATION

Name: ____________________________
Phone: ___________________________
Address: _________________________

Email: ____________________________
(For confirmation only; it will not be sold or given to others.)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

VGS Member X $50 = __________
Non-Member X $65 = __________

After 15 September 2019, please add $10
Vegetarian Meal Requested

Total Enclosed: ____________________
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Credit Card number: ____________________
(Visa/Mastercard/Discover only)
Exp. date: ___________ CVV code: _______
(3-digit number on the back/front of credit card)

If credit card billing address and mailing address are not the same, please provide:

Billing street address __________________________
Billing zip code __________________________
Signature: __________________________

Cancellations after 15 September 2019 will not be refunded.

Help Us Plan Better! Mark your preferred lecture for each time slot to help us determine the best room size. (Don’t worry! You can always change your mind later and attend a different lecture.)

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