



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

VIRGINIA FAMILY HISTORY DAY

New Conference Explores “Virginia: Where African American History & Genealogy Begin”

Friday & Saturday, September 15–16, 2017, at the Library of Virginia, Richmond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Richmond, Virginia) – Virginia’s pivotal role in African American family history is the result of a dark past. In two years we will commemorate the arrival of the first documented Africans in British North America at Jamestown. In the antebellum period, the Old Dominion became the northernmost center of a domestic slave trade to the Deep South that separated families. These profound events mean that many family lines link back to Virginia but that researchers often run into a paper or digital “brick wall” when looking for their ancestors—especially before 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery. This conference is designed to break down those barriers.

A new Virginia-focused African American genealogy and history conference, a genealogy workshop, and related events—combined under the heading “Virginia Family History Day”—make up the first of what organizers intend to be an annual offering, held this year at the Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Friday and Saturday, September 15–16, 2017.

The Saturday conference, entitled “Virginia: Where African American Genealogy and History Begin,” features keynote speaker Phillip Troutman, an assistant professor of writing and history at The George Washington University, on “The Domestic Slave Trade and its Effect on African American Family History,” as well as a full day of classes and presentations from regional experts and Library of Virginia staff members. Friday’s events include a workshop on “African American Research at the Library of Virginia: Genealogy to 1870”; a book talk

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and signing with Paula Owens Parker, author of *Roots Matter: Healing History, Honoring Heritage, Renewing Hope*; and a reception and panel discussion on “Preserving African American Stories.”

The events are sponsored by the Library of Virginia, the Virginia chapters of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., the Middle Peninsula African American Genealogical and Historical Society, and the Richmond-area congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with support by FamilySearch.

“Virginia Family History Day celebrates a tradition of remembering ancestors and collaboration among research resource providers to offer new and essential resources for genealogical and historical discoveries,” said Marilyn Campbell, president of the Greater Richmond Chapter of AAHGS. “The thematic focus will guide many to explore their generational roots, migration patterns, burial sites and cemeteries, DNA testing options, and settlements of African American families in Virginia.”

Registration and tickets are required for the workshop and conference (go to:

<https://africanamericangenealogyvirginia.eventbrite.com>). Spaces are limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. The book talk and panel discussion are free, but seating is limited.

To see the tentative program schedule, go to: <http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/african-american-genealogy-conference/genealogy-conference-program>. For more information, contact Catherine Wyatt at catherine.wyatt@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3999.

A “Schedule-at-a-Glance” of sessions follows.

IMAGES (WITH A LIST OF CAPTIONS) AVAILABLE AT

<https://goo.gl/TFNEvt>

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August 14, 2017

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Family History Day Conference | Library of Virginia, September 15–16, 2017

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

FRIDAY | 9:30 AM–12:30 PM | WORKSHOP

African American Research at the Library of Virginia: Genealogy to 1870 – Cara Griggs

(Pre-registration required | Conference Rooms)

FRIDAY | 2:00–3:00 PM | BOOK TALK & SIGNING

Roots Matter: Healing History, Honoring Heritage, Renewing Hope – Paula Owens Parker

(Open to the public | Lecture Hall)

FRIDAY | 5:30–6:15 PM | RECEPTION

Beverages & Hors D'oeuvres

(Open to the public | Lobby)

FRIDAY | 6:15–7:15 PM | PANEL DISCUSSION

Preserving African American Stories: Collaborations, Crowdsourcing, and How You Can Help

(Open to the public | Lecture Hall)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM–4:00 PM | CONFERENCE

Virginia: Where African American Genealogy and History Begin

(Pre-registration required | Lecture Hall & Conference Rooms)

SATURDAY | 9:00–10:00 AM | KEYNOTE LECTURE

The Domestic Slave Trade and its Effect on African American Family History

Phillip Troutman (PhD, The George Washington University) will outline the patterns of enslaved migration and the domestic slave trade, highlighting its impact on families. (Lecture Hall)

SATURDAY | 10:15–11:15 AM | SESSION I

- Journey of a Thousand Miles: First Steps to Starting Your Research – Katie Derby
- Beyond the Brick Wall: Solving Research Problems with DNA Testing – Rachael Unkefer

- Challenges for African American Research – Shelley Murphy
- Reconstructing Family: Post-Emancipation Records at the Library of Virginia – Cara Griggs
- Essential Online Resources for African American Genealogy – Angela Walton-Raji

SATURDAY | 11:30 AM–12:30 PM | SESSION II

- Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative – Greg Crawford
- Mapping the Freedmen’s Bureau – Angela Walton-Raji
- One Slave, Many Owners: Following the Path of My Formerly Enslaved Ancestor – A Case Study – Renate Yarborough Sanders
- African American Funeral Programs: A Treasure Trove of Information – Bessida Cauthorne White
- The Quiet Revolution: “Documenting a Valued History!” – Zann Nelson

SATURDAY | 12:30–1:15 PM | LUNCH

SATURDAY | 1:30–2:30 PM | SESSION III

- Using U.S. Federal Census Records – Jean Cooper
- Creating a Research Plan with DNA – Shannon Combs-Bennett
- Using Family Tree Maker and RootsMagic Software – Drusilla Pair
- Gravestone Genealogies: Mapping Family History in Virginia Cemeteries – Lynn Rainville
- Speaking for Themselves: Freedmen’s Bureau Record Group 105 – Selma Stewart

SATURDAY | 2:45–3:45 PM | SESSION IV

- What’s in My Chromosomes? – Shannon Combs-Bennett
- Chancery Causes and African American Research in Virginia – Vincent Brooks
- Whispering Walls: Uncovering the Lives and Times of a Historic Virginia Home – Katie Derby
- Slave-Era Research – Jean Cooper
- Methods and Strategies for Analyzing Records (So What!) – Shelley Murphy