



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

Virginia Family History Day Conference Explores “Searching for Your Ancestors: The Genealogical Impact of Forced & Voluntary Virginia Migrations” Saturday, September 14, 2019, at the Library of Virginia

July 30, 2019

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(Richmond, Virginia) – The 1619 arrival of Africans marked a pivotal moment in Virginia’s history and eventually caused major shifts in its economy and culture. The 400th anniversary of this seminal event invites us to examine its influence on the practice of family history as well as the impact of subsequent migrations to, from, and within the commonwealth.

Many American families have ancestors who migrated through Virginia, crisscrossing the map within historical migration routes. Africans and African Americans suffered the harshest experience of all migrants, experiencing the horrors of slave ships and having their families forcibly separated in the routine transactions of the American slave trade to which Virginia was essential. Famines, land clearings, poverty, and religious persecution pushed British and European souls out of the Old World to find a new life and new land in Virginia and beyond, whether as indentured servants or willing immigrants. In the process, Native people lost much of their land to the colonizers through warfare and forced resettlement.

This year’s Virginia Family History Day Conference explores the ways in which the search for ancestors in records is affected by these historical currents. Come to the Library of Virginia for an exciting day of family history exploration and networking. Attendees can learn more about the historical context of their family history stories and shed light on their ancestors’ journeys. This one-day conference features a presentation from educator, historian, and award-winning author Ric Murphy on "The 400th Commemoration of the First Documented Africans in English North America."

The Library of Virginia hosts this third annual Family History Day Conference in collaboration with the Virginia chapters of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., the Middle Peninsula African-American

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Genealogical and Historical Society, and the Richmond-area congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with support from FamilySearch.

“The legacy of 1619 and beyond offers us the opportunity to connect our ancestors’ stories to the peopling of Virginia and America, and we’re excited to explore this legacy with such prestigious instructors and family historians,” said Gregg D. Kimball, director of Public Services and Outreach at the Library of Virginia. “While sometimes marked by coercion and violence, migration has defined our country and who we are. We want to help our attendees learn to walk in their ancestors’ steps, no matter how difficult.”

A free, optional open house on Friday, September 13, offers computer lab sessions on topics such as newspapers and maps, one-on-one "Ask an Expert" sessions, and a tour of the Library. (Reservations are required for the “Ask an Expert” sessions. To schedule one, contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.)

Registration and tickets are required for the conference. Visit: searchingforyourancestors.eventbrite.com. The cost is \$35 (\$14 for optional lunch). Spaces are limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.

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VIRGINIA FAMILY HISTORY DAY CONFERENCE

Searching for Your Ancestors

The Genealogical Impact of Forced & Voluntary Virginia Migrations

Saturday, September 14, 2019 | 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond 23219

OPTIONAL FREE OPEN HOUSE: Friday, September 13, 2019 | 10:00 AM–4:30 PM

Registration: searchingforyourancestors.eventbrite.com

LIST OF SESSIONS

KEYNOTE LECTURE

The 400th Commemoration of the First Documented Africans in English North America

– Ric Murphy

SESSIONS

German Immigration to the Shenandoah Valley – Daniel Bly

Indentured Servants in Colonial Virginia – Vic Dunn

The Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania Through Virginia and Migration – Vic Dunn

African American Migration Records at the Library of Virginia – Cara Griggs

Virginia Geography: Its Effect on Settlement and Migration – Barbara Vines Little

Case Study: “20 and Odd” Genealogy – Ric Murphy

Domestic Slave Trade Records – Josh Rothman

Understanding My Early Colonial Virginian Admixture: An Intersection of African, European, and Native Genealogies – Brian Sheffey