



For Immediate Release  
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## **IHS Begins Registration for Midwestern Roots: Family History and Genealogy Conference 2012 Theme Is “Where Do You Think You Find It,” includes sessions highlighting technology**

**Indianapolis**—Registration has begun for the Indiana Historical Society’s Midwestern Roots 2012: Family History and Genealogy Conference, which will take place July 20 and 21, 2012, at the Indianapolis Marriott East. Themed “Where Do You Think You Find It,” this exciting event offers nationally renowned experts as well as the latest in information, methodology and technology for everyone from beginning enthusiasts and seasoned professionals.

The conference will include sessions from J. Mark Lowe, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and D. Joshua Taylor, all featured contributors on NBC’s popular program *Who Do You Think You Are?*. Also included in the presenters’ lineup are: Dick Eastman of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter*; Thomas MacEntee, the creator of *GeneaBloggers.com*; Daniel S. Poffenberger, senior content strategist for the Patron Assistance Division of the Family History Department for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; and Juliana Smith, an editor for *Ancestry.com* and *Ancestry Weekly Discovery*.

A number of pre-conference activities will be offered Thursday, July 19, at various Indianapolis locations, such as the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indiana State Library, Indiana State Archives and the Central Branch of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. These include writing workshops, computer labs and genealogy library workshops. For the first time, historic bus tours will also be offered.

The pre-conference evening panel discussion, “Adventures Behind the Scenes,” will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, at the Indiana State Library. Presenters Lowe, Smolenyak and Taylor will recount some of their experiences working with popular television shows such as *Who Do You Think You Are?* and relating other genealogical adventures.

Cost for the basic two-day workshop (including lunches) is \$150 (\$125 for IHS members, \$75 for students), and single-day registration (including lunch) is \$90 (\$75 for IHS members, \$45 for students). The Friday evening banquet and presentation (no conference registration required) is \$40 per person. Additional pre-conference activities and workshops are available for a fee.

In addition to regular conference sessions, an exhibit hall will showcase vendors selling the latest products and tools for genealogists. The exhibit hall is free and open to the public on Friday and Saturday. For conference information, registration forms, exhibitor information and specific pricing, call (317) 232-1882 or visit [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org).

Hotel reservations may be made at the Indianapolis Marriott East or La Quinta Inn. For the Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st Street, call (317) 352-1231 or (800) 228-9290 to receive the special \$99 room rate. For the La Quinta Inn, 7304 East 21st Street, call (317) 359-1021 to receive the special \$72 room rate. Please indicate association with Midwestern Roots. Room reservations must be made by June 18, 2012.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana’s Storyteller, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing the state’s history. A private, nonprofit membership organization, IHS maintains the nation’s premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest and presents a unique set of visitor exhibitions called the *Indiana Experience*. IHS also provides support and assistance to local museums and historical groups; publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; and provides youth, adult and family programming. The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, home of the IHS and the *Indiana Experience*, is located at 450 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

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