



For Immediate Release
March 18, 2014

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Early Registration for 2014 Midwestern Roots Conference ends July 1

Theme Is “Exploring Frontiers: What Would Your Pioneers Have Tweeted”

Indianapolis—Family history and genealogy enthusiasts are encouraged to take advantage of early registration for the Indiana Historical Society’s Midwestern Roots 2014: Family History and Genealogy Conference, which ends July 1. The conference will take place Aug. 1 and 2, 2014, at the Indianapolis Marriott East.

Themed “Exploring Frontiers: What Would Your Pioneers Have Tweeted,” 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: Lisa Louise Cooke, author and producer/host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast; 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; Warren Bittner, award-winning genealogical researcher, lecturer and former German Collection Manager for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City; Anne Gillespie Mitchell, author of the Ancestry Anne column and Senior Product Manager at Ancestry.com; and Amy Johnson Crow, author, lecturer and Genealogical Content Manager for Ancestry.com.

Friday’s opening session, *Hoosiers and A New History for the Twenty First Century*, by James H. Madison, will explain why a new, fresh history is needed if we are to attract 21st century audiences and engage those who don’t share a passion for history.

Friday evening’s banquet will feature Daniel S. Poffenberger and *The Much, Extremely, Incredibly Lighter Side of Family History: Funny names and other fascinating finds from years of research*, which takes a comedic look at actual parish registers, census and other genealogical records to demonstrate the humorous, interesting, and, at times, almost painful aspects of our ancestor’s lives.

Cooke’s Saturday opening session, *Future Technology and Genealogy: 5 Strategies You Need*, will help participants envision their genealogy as technology speeds ahead in the future and provide five key strategies that will make the ride easier.

A number of pre-conference activities, including writing workshops, computer labs and genealogy library workshops, will be offered Thursday, July 31. Locations include 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. Thursday evening concludes with Lisa Louise Cooke and *The Great Google Earth Game Show* that allows everyone to see the amazing capabilities of Google Earth when used for genealogy in a fun way.

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Early bird registration 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 \$45 per person. Registrations must be postmarked by July 1 to receive the early bird rate. 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.

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. For the La Quinta Inn, 7304 East 21st Street, call (317) 359-1021.

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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