



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:

Date	Room	Rate
10/17/2019	1-bedroom villa - upstairs	\$ 65
10/17/2019	1-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$ 80
10/17/2019	2-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$ 98

10/18/2019	1-bedroom villa - upstairs	\$116
10/18/2019	1-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$131
10/18/2019	2-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$148
10/19/2019	1-bedroom villa - upstairs	\$116
10/19/2019	1-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$131
10/19/2019	2-bedroom villa - downstairs	\$148

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 a 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 Rebman Virginia Genealogy Collection has a rich genealogical collection of both unpublished and published sources. The Rebman Collection, housed in the general stacks, includes published 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 Stubbs, 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 Lecturer<sup>SM</sup>. Her focuses are Maryland and military records at the National Archives, especially those of the War of 1812. Rebecca has been taking clients and lecturing since 2004. Rebecca is the Course I 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. Rebecca is a graduate and former group coordinator and mentor of the ProGen Study Group, an online peer-led study program based on the book *Professional Genealogy* by Elizabeth Shown Mills; she was appointed ProGen Administrator in January 2015. She was appointed as the Executive Director of the Board for Certification of Genealogists® in July 2018. Rebecca lives in Mount Airy, Maryland, and volunteers at the Family History Center in Frederick.

**Fall Conference Presented by the 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**

# Finding Your Hidden Ancestors Using Research Essentials

## 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 Proof* 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.**

## SATURDAY 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 six steps attendees can use to bypass record shortages and 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 presentation will explain seven reasons why such ancestors seem to have disappeared, provide 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**

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 underutilized 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.**

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

10:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
S11	S12	S13	S14
S21	S22	S23	S24