

**GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
2014 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE**

**We're Planning A Special Conference &
We Hope You Will Join Us!**

***** Featuring National Speaker *****

Thomas MacEntee

Founder of High-Definition Genealogy

Saturday, August 9, 2014

Ray Hancock Conference Center

John A. Logan College

Cartersville IL 62918

Register Early - Seating is Limited

Are you intrigued by Ancestry.com commercials, but don't know where to begin?

Join us at this Family History Conference and we will help you get started.

Have you reached a brick wall in your research, or need some fresh ideas, or motivation? Join us at this Family History Conference and get reenergized.

Yes, we have something for everyone - beginning, intermediate, or advanced.

GSSI c/o John A. Logan College 700 Logan College Dr. Cartersville IL 62918

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi/>

PROGRAM INFORMATION

8:00-9:00	Registration Vendor Fair open
9:00-10:00	<p>Session 1: 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists</p> <p>Who said genealogy and the hunt for your family history has to be expensive? Just as in any other industry, there are some tricks to getting the best deals and bargains in the genealogy marketplace. With 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists you'll learn the tricks and also how to think like a savvy frugal genealogist! You'll not only find a list of key resources but more importantly you'll learn how to embrace the "mind set" of finding the best ways to save money while researching your ancestors.</p>
10:00-10:30	Break & Vendor Fair Browsing
10:30-11:30	<p>Session 2: Got Illinois Ancestors? A Guide to Prairie State Genealogy</p> <p>Many of our ancestors either settled in Illinois or passed through on their way out West. Learn the basics of Prairie State research as well as some unusual resources! While Illinois genealogy research is no easier or more difficult than other states, there are special resources with which many genealogists are unfamiliar. Learn about the history of the Prairie State and its migration patterns to understand how your ancestors lived and how to find them!</p>
11:30-1:15	Lunch Vendor Fair Browsing Research Assistance Genealogy Library Open
1:15-2:15	<p>Session 3: Internet Archive: A Gold Mine for Genealogists</p> <p>The Internet Archive (http://www.archive.org) is a free, on-line repository rich with genealogy source documents including census images and e-books. Learn how to navigate the Internet Archive and leverage the best search strategies to download a variety of materials including archived web pages, e-books, video, audio and more.</p>
2:15-2:45	Break & Vendor Fair Browsing
2:45-3:45	<p>Session 4: 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy</p> <p>In this session attendees will learn how to energize their genealogy research and will be ready to hit the ground running. Whether stuck in a rut with genealogy research for the past year or just wanting to expand the ways in which family history can be pursued, follow these 10 touchstones and you'll be surprised at the results. Covering every aspect of genealogy and even those you never considered, your genealogy research will not just jump, it'll leap!</p>
3:45-4:00	Drawing for Door Prizes

Handicap Accessibility: The facility is handicapped accessible with all activities on one floor without steps. If you have special needs, please indicate on the registration form.

Lunch: Lunch is included with your paid registration received prior to July 25th. Lunch includes Meat Lasagna, Italian Salad, Vegetable Medley, Garlic Bread, Cookies or Brownies, Tea and Water.

Vending machines with soft drinks and snacks are also available.

GSSI Library: The GSSI Library that is located on the John A Logan College Campus will be open during the lunch break.

GSSI volunteers will be available to answer questions regarding the extensive collection.

Conference Questions: Contact Diane Anderson at DLA62@yahoo.com or 618-426-3606.

Thomas MacEntee

As a genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and to interact with others in the family history community, Thomas MacEntee relies upon his 25 years of experience in the information technology field.

Born in the Catskill Mountain region of New York, Thomas was introduced to his ancestry in 1993 when he discovered a published copy of his family's genealogy from 1916. Working with a detailed accounting of his Dutch ancestry, Thomas has continued to trace the other roots and branches of his family for the past 15 years.

After attending The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., earning a Bachelor of Arts in Art History with a minor in Spanish Language and Literature, a career involving computers and the Internet was not on the radar for this lover of history and the liberal arts. But life has a funny way of interfering with "best laid plans."

While working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Thomas was asked to learn all about a new-fangled machine called the IBM Personal Computer and then teach others in his department. Thus began a fascination with desktop computer technology and training.

By then an "accidental trainer," for the next 22 years Thomas went on to work in some of the largest global law firms in the world including Skadden Arps and Latham & Watkins as a trainer, technical writer, applications analyst and project manager.

Fast-forward to the present: Thomas now shares his knowledge of technology and experience as a genealogist with others through various forms of social media and speaking engagements. Through his business High-Definition Genealogy, he provides consulting services in the genealogy industry covering such areas as market research, education, technology and more.

As the creator of GeneaBloggers.com, Thomas has organized and engaged a community of over 2,800 bloggers to document their own journeys in the search for ancestors.

After spending close to 20 years in Northern California, Thomas currently lives in the Andersonville neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois. Thomas is available nationwide for presentations and classes focusing on social media and technology as a way to assist genealogists and genealogical societies.

Luncheon

The lunch is included with your paid registration for the conference as a thank you for your support of GSSI through the years (if received by July 25, 2014).

The menu includes: Meat Lasagna, Italian Salad, Vegetable Medley, Garlic Bread, Cookies or Brownies, Tea and Water. (Substitutions are not available, please feel free to bring your lunch if you prefer something different, or there are many restaurants in the area.)

Vendor Fair

Vendors and societies will have displays and genealogical products to examine and purchase. If you have genealogical materials you no longer need, please consider donating them to the GSSI Country Store. Proceeds will benefit the GSSI organization.

Interested in being a vendor? Booths are free (we encourage you to donate an item for our door prize drawing).

Contact Diane Anderson at DLA62@yahoo.com to reserve your space or for more information.

Registration

Please use a separate form for each person

Please print or type your name as you would like it to appear on your name tag.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Conference Fees:

If received before July 25, 2014 lunch is included with registration

After July 25, 2014 lunch will not be guaranteed, you may be on your own for lunch

GSSI Members \$40 _____

Non-members \$50 _____

Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal

Individual/Household \$25 _____

Sustaining \$35 _____

Supporting \$50 or more _____

Additional Donation _____

TOTAL DUE _____

**Mail with check to: Genealogy Society of So. Ill. c/o John A Logan College
700 Logan College Drive Carterville IL 62918**

Directions: John A Logan College is located on Illinois Rte. 13 at Greenbriar Road in Carterville, between Marion and Carbondale. Turn north off Rte. 13 at the Greenbriar traffic light and proceed past the ball fields to the campus entrance and follow the signs to parking lot "D" which is immediately adjacent to the entrance of the Ray Hancock Conference Center. Overflow parking will be available in lot "A" nearby. Parking is free.

Hotels: Several chain hotels are located on Rte. 13 between Marion and Carbondale, within a few miles of the conference.