



8th Annual OGS Fall Conference

Sept 11-12, 2026

Ohio Genealogical Society Library

Bellville, OH



This year's fall conference will be held at the Ohio Genealogical Society Library in Bellville, Ohio. The speakers are, Eric E. Johnson, Deborah Kitko, Lauren Kuntzman, and Thomas S. Neel. Please note that seating is limited to the first fifty registered attendees.

Conference Venue

Ohio Gen. Soc. Library

611 St. Rt. 97 W.

Bellville, OH 44813



The Ohio Genealogical Society Library is located just off I-71 on St. Rt. 97 W and is just minutes from quaint downtown Bellville and a short distance from downtown Mansfield, Ohio.

We have a room block reserved at the Quality Inn & Suites just two minutes west of the OGS library, to receive the discounted rate of \$129.00 (plus tax) night please call 419-886-7000 and mention the OGS Fall Conference. Your hotel accommodation does include a complimentary hot breakfast. Hotel accommodations are not included in your registration. This special rate is only available until Aug 28, 2026. **Please note check-in begins at 3 PM and you must check-out before 11 AM.**

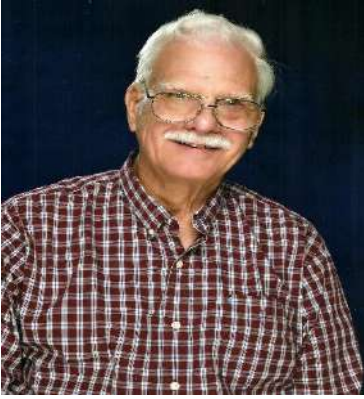
Registration cost is \$180.00 for an OGS Member and \$250.00 for a Non-Member of OGS. This year we are offering a virtual option for a fee of \$280.00. All registrations include an electronic syllabus and access to all twelve recorded sessions for one week after the conclusion of the conference. In-person registrations include a boxed lunch on Saturday. We will also be having a reception on Friday night for free but RSVP are required.

The first conference session begins at 2 PM on Friday and last session on Saturday ends at 5 PM. Each session is 90 mins in length with 30 mins in between each session.

You can register online at <https://www.ogs.org/ogs-fall-retreat/>. Registration is only open until Aug 28, 2026, so do not delay in getting registered.



SPEAKER BIO'S



Eric E. Johnson is the Registrar General for the General Society of the War of 1812, a member of the Company of Military Historians, National Society Sons of the American Revolution, and the Swedish Colonial Society. A retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force, he is the author of eleven books on the Civil War and the War of 1812.

Deborah Kitko, MLIS is a genealogy librarian for the Wayne Co, Public Library in Wooster, Ohio and currently serves as a Trustee for the Ohio Genealogical Society.



Lauren Kuntzman, MA, MLIS has twenty-five years' experience with genealogical research specializing in midwestern roots. Currently she manages the Medina County District Library's Family History & Learning Center.



Thomas S. Neel, MLIS is the retired director of the Ohio Genealogical Society, and is the immediate Past President of the Firelands Genealogical Society, OGS, Trustee for the Ashland Co Chapter, OGS, and President of the New London Historical Society.



Friday Sessions

2:00 PM	4:00 PM
F01: “Researching Ancestors in the Old Northwest Territory 1788-1803” Explore the resources available for researching ancestors who lived in the Old Northwest Territory between 1788-1803 B/I/A <i>Eric E. Johnson</i>	F03: “Creating a Timeline for Your Ancestor” A Timeline serves as a checklist of what you have located on an ancestor, enables the researcher to fill in the life spaces and define the weakness in your family history thesis. B/I/A <i>Thomas S. Neel</i>
F02: “Tracing Family History Through Property Records” Explore how land records can expand your genealogical research and assist you in discovering family connections. B/IA <i>Deborah Kitko</i>	F04: “Making the Most of the US Census” Explore U.S. Federal Census population and non-population schedules in depth, in a topical survey of census questions and answers. Includes tips for locating hard to find ancestors. B/I/A <i>Lauren Kuntzman</i>

Friday Night Reception *(free but RSVP is required)* 5:30-7:30 PM

Please join The Ohio Genealogical Society from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Friday, September 11th, 2026 for an evening reception at our beautiful Bellville, OH Library during our annual 2-day Fall Conference. Socialize with fellow family historians and hear our Executive Director speak on the value of OGS and its future.

Beverages (adult & non-alcoholic) and heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served. All are welcome. You do not need to be an OGS member or registered for the Fall Conference to attend, but an RSVP is required.



Saturday's Sessions

9:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
<p>S01: “Exploring Smaller Institutions to Mine Family History Data” Even if there is no catalog, inventory, index, or a website providing access in this digital research world there are still a goldmine of genealogical treasures to be found. B/I/A <i>Thomas S. Neel</i></p>	<p>S03: “U.S. Colored Troops Service Records: Extracting family information” Learn how to find genealogical information from the Compiled Military Service Records of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. B/I/A <i>Eric E. Johnson</i></p>	<p>Boxed Lunch:</p> <p>Choice of one of the following:</p> <p>sandwiches:</p> <p>Club, Chicken Bacon Ranch, BLT, Veggie</p> <p>Plus, a side of Broccoli Salad, and a cookie.</p>	<p>S05: “Mining Local Records: Church Records” Churches provided spiritual instruction and daily activities for our ancestors. These records provide a wealth of genealogical data especially when civil records are lacking. B/I/A <i>Thomas S. Neel</i></p>	<p>S07: “Researching New England Town Records (Prior to 1850)” Explore the resources available on the internet for researching New England town records and finding hidden ancestral gems. B/I/A <i>Eric E. Johnson</i></p>
<p>S02: “From Headlines to Lineages: Discovering Family Stories in Historic Newspapers” Explore the “rough draft of history”. Find your ancestors’ stories, with five resources for locating newspapers. Learn search tips and best practices for saving discoveries. B/I/A <i>Lauren Kuntzman</i></p>	<p>S04: “Leaving a Written Legacy” You have spent years collecting data for your family. This presentation will offer some guidelines on how you may transform these genealogy facts into meaningful narratives to share with others. B/I/A <i>Deborah Kitko</i></p>	<p>Served with Iced Tea or Water</p> <p>Included in your registration. <u>Sorry no additional meals can be purchased at lunch.</u></p>	<p>S06: “Utilizing FamilySearch in Your Research” FamilySearch offers a variety of ways to research records on your family. We will explore some of these search techniques and introduce other tools available through this dynamic website B/I/A <i>Deborah Kitko</i></p>	<p>S08: "Search Smarter: Incorporating AI Tools into Family History Research". Learn to maximize your research time by incorporating AI tools into your genealogy workflow. Discover strategies and tools to support your projects, from start to finish. B/I/A <i>Lauren Kuntzman</i></p>



Important Details:

Registration deadline is August 28, 2026. Register online at the following website <https://www.ogs.org/ogs-fall-retreat/>.

Please note registration fees do not include hotel, transportation or other incidentals. Please send registration questions to ogscord@ogs.org.



Refunds:

Refunds will be issued up until July 31, 2026, a \$75.00 administration fee will be charged. **No refunds will be issued after July 31, 2026.** All refunds must be requested via email to ogscord@ogs.org.



Registration Rates:

OGS Member Registration is \$180.00 per person, which includes your Saturday lunch.

Non-Member Registration \$250.00 per person, which includes your Saturday lunch.

Virtual Only Registration is \$280.00 per person, which also gives you access to all twelve sessions for one week after the conclusion of the conference.

Friday Evening Reception is open to anyone who wishes to participate. There is no fee but because food & beverage is being ordered ***you must pre register.***

Lunch Options

Boxed Lunch Options for Saturday which include broccoli salad, and a cookie with your choice of water or iced tea are:

Hot Club Sandwich: Ham, turkey, bacon, cheddar, mozzarella, lettuce, tomato, and mayo.

Hot Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich: Grilled chicken, bacon, lettuce, cheese, and ranch dressing.

Hot BLT Sandwich: Bacon on a bun topped with lettuce tomato and mayo.

Veggie Sandwich: Tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, green and black olives, mild peppers, Italian dressing and cheese.

Meals:

The Saturday luncheon is included registration for in-person attendees. The Friday night Social at the OGS Library is free but a RSVP is required to attend & guests are welcome. ***Only the registered attendees can partake in the Saturday luncheon.***

Check-in at Event:

Attendees and speakers will receive a name badge at the registration desk for the event. ***(Name badges are required to attend sessions).*** Event registration will be open Friday (1-3 PM) and Saturday (8:30-9:00 AM).

