

# BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



## APRIL Member Meeting (Virtual)



FRIDAY, April 30, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

***The Road to Independence:  
Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors***  
*presented by Michael L. Strauss, AG,  
Genealogy Research Network*

Advance registration required. **Pre-register now by clicking [HERE](#).**  
An email will be sent with instructions on how to join the meeting.

The Revolutionary War was fought in part over tensions between England and her colonies that escalated over time into violence with the opening shots fired in Massachusetts in April 1775. Some of the historical records examined will include compiled military service records, pensions, state and federal bounty land, local militia, along with records from the Continental Navy and Marine Corps. Additionally historical context include some of the national emergencies after the end of the war in 1783 including both Shay's Rebellion and the later Whiskey Rebellion.

Michael L. Strauss, AG, is a professional Accredited Genealogist and a nationally recognized speaker. A native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Utah, he has been employed as a Forensic Genealogist for more than 25 years. Strauss has a BA in History and is a United States Coast Guard veteran. He is a qualified expert witness in court in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Strauss is a faculty member of IGHR (in Athens, GA), SLIG (in Salt Lake City, UT), and GRIP (in Pittsburgh, PA), and the Course Coordinator for the Military Course at IGHR. Michael has been involved in Civil War reenacting for more than 25 years.

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### Special points of interest

- **NEW Brick Wall Busters**  
*Special Interest Group*
- **Open BAGS Board of Directors Positions**
- **Family Fanatics History Summer Conference**
- **Genealogy Word Search**

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2019-2021**

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Fred Roe of League City  
Melinda Culpon of Magnolia**



**Additional points of contact:**

**Contact entire BAGS Board:**

[bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org)

**Need help attending the next meeting?**

[memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org) (OPEN)

**Research questions or to provide research assistance:**

[education@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:education@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Kim Zrubek)

**Submit information for the Journal, published twice**

**a year: [journal@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:journal@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Todd Roberts)**

**Submit pedigree chart to share with membership:**

[pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Anita Cooper)

**Share to preserve Society history:**

[historian@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:historian@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Teresa Rundell)

**Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:**

[publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Terri Myers)

**Not receiving emails?**

[emailcoord@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:emailcoord@TxBayAreaGen.org)

**Don't know the Members Page password?**

[Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris and Galveston counties, Texas, who have an interest in genealogy. Articles on genealogy are welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and is subject to editing. Please include permissions with copyrighted material submissions. Questions or comments on the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to: Editor, P.O. Box 590853, Houston, TX 77259-0853, or [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org). All rights reserved.

## March General Meeting recap...

### **HELP! I Don't Speak the Language: Tips and Tricks for Deciphering Foreign Language Records** presented by Katherine Schrober



Katherine Schrober shared helpful hints when trying to read not only a foreign language but even early English and colonial handwriting. One tip was to thoroughly review the document looking for other words using similar letters found in the *difficult to read* word or phrase. Often subsequent uses of the letter are much more readable and when you go back to the original "unreadable word" it may make sense the second time around! As a German-English translator, she shared a long list of helpful websites for the genealogist faced with foreign documents, such as the FamilySearch Wiki page for [Genealogical Word Lists](#).

If you missed the March presentation or just want to watch again, the video recording is available until April 26th on the [BAGS Members Only](#) website under "**General Meeting Handouts**". Katherine shared her syllabus filled with a number of website links to assist you in translating foreign language documents.



## 2021 BAGS CALENDAR

*Due to COVID-19 concerns, all **in-person** activities of the Bay Area Genealogical Society have been cancelled. **Monthly general meetings will be held as virtual webinars.** Details for registration will be posted to the Society website and future newsletters.*

Friday, April 30, 7:00 PM - **The Road to Independence: Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors** presented by Michael Strauss, [www.genealogyresearchnetwork.com](http://www.genealogyresearchnetwork.com)

Friday, May 28, 7:00 PM - **Genealogy from a Private Investigator's Perspective** presented by Lisa Smith, President, Bay Area Genealogical Society, and owner of [Dragon Investigation Group](#)

Friday, June 25, 7:00 PM— **Reconstructing Communities Using Census Records, Sanborn Maps, and City Directories** presented by Ari Wilkins

Friday, July 30, 7:00 PM— *Topic to be announced soon*

Friday, August 27, 7:00 PM— BAGS Annual Show & Tell

## Board Meetings

Currently held as virtual meetings via ZOOM. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend a Board Meeting, request a



link from [info@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:info@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### 2021

April 26  
May 24  
June 28  
July 26  
August 23

Board meetings are held on Mondays at 6:30 PM.



## Research Bus Trips

Suspended until Clayton Library reopens and the Harris County Precinct #2 bus trips resume.

## UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

*May 28th, 7:00pm*



### **Genealogy From a Private Investigator's Perspective**

***See how the methodology, techniques, and resources used in the private investigation and genealogy professions overlap and are applied to solve cases. Four case studies are presented.***

**Lisa Smith** is a licensed private investigator, certified fraud examiner, and professional genealogist. She is the owner of Dragon Investigation Group, an investigation firm located in Conroe, and is currently serving as BAGS' President. She specializes in DNA matching and adoptee/birth location. Lisa can be reached via e-mail at [lisa@dragoninvestigation.com](mailto:lisa@dragoninvestigation.com) or via her website [www.dragoninvestigation.com](http://www.dragoninvestigation.com).

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*June 25th, 7:00pm*

### **Reconstructing Communities Using Census Records, Sanborn Maps, and City Directories**

***Recreating communities can provide rich and insightful details about an ancestor's life and surroundings. This lecture will demonstrate ways to combine data from census records, Sanborn maps and city directories.***

**Ari Wilkins**, a graduate of Louisiana State University, has been actively researching family history since 1998. Ms. Wilkins has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Texas State Genealogical Society, Ohio Genealogical Society, Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, American Library Association, RootsTech, and a multitude of local societies.



Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library since 2007. She teaches a series of basic research classes using popular genealogical websites. She specializes in African American research.

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***Have you experienced a presentation that really spoke to your genealogical research needs? Would you want to hear more from a specific presenter? Is there a particular research skill or topic you would welcome?*** These are some of the questions considered by those

preparing the schedule for the next calendar year of presenters to the membership of Bay Area Genealogical Society. ***Feedback from our members is greatly appreciated.*** Tell us what you enjoyed...what you learned...what you want to be on the calendar in the coming months...

Email your comments to Rebecca Jones, Vice President, Programming at:

[vicepresident2@BayAreaGen.org](mailto:vicepresident2@BayAreaGen.org)





*From Susie Atkinson Ganch...*

### SCANNING OLD ALBUMS

Do you have old family albums where the pictures are glued to the pages? Well, I do. I discovered an App which makes scanning these pictures easy and functional. After you download **Photomyne** to your iPhone or Android phone, you can use it to take pictures of album pages. **Photomyne** straightens the photos and enhances them. Then you can view the whole page, but even better, it allows you to pull up the individual pictures.

Here is an example. The first picture is one I took of the album page with my regular iPhone camera. The pictures were glued to the black page and trying to remove them would have damaged them.

The pictures below were from the same album page but taken with **Photomyne**.



**Photomyne** edits and straightens the pictures and, best of all, you can bring up one image at a time from the group. Now your old album is still intact and you have digitized images of the contents.

**Photomyne** offers a free account or upgraded subscription with additional features. Give the free version a try by downloading from either Apple Store or Google Play.





**Get help on your research project with these options!**

### Online Research Sessions (via ZOOM teleconferencing) (Members Helping Members)

If you would like to brainstorm a research brick wall, gather suggestions, learn how to use an online resource, ask questions, give help, or just visit with other genealogists, join in with either or both of the sessions, with or without video. Participants can share their screens and demonstrate recent research discoveries or accomplishments.

The latest access details are posted on the BAGS [Members Helping Members Page](#).

**Weekly: Mondays from 10:00 AM to noon join moderator Renee Ball.**

**Weekly: Mondays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM join moderator Kim Zrubek.**

**Monthly: 1st Sunday (each month except July) from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**  
**May 2—June 6—August 1—September 5—October 3—November 7**

NEW

If you want to practice using Zoom or have questions connecting to a session, contact Kim Zrubek by email [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) or by phone 281-992-2636.



### **Research Your Way to Genealogy Answers** **Family History Fanatics Summer Virtual Conference** **Saturday, June 5th, 2021, 9:00 am CDT**

- **Research Over My Shoulder: A Practical Guide to Researching Your Ancestors** (Devon Noel Lee)
- **How To Effectively Research Newspapers For Your Ancestors** (Lisa Lisson)
- **How to Research German Ancestors from the US to their Hometown** (Miles Meyer)
- **Dissecting a Civil War Pension Record-Union & Confederate** (Jill Morelli)

**Engaging, LIVE Presentations**

**Door Prizes**

**Recordings available for 30 days**

**Stay for a fifth hour panel discussion to ask questions of the presenters!**

### **REGISTER IN ADVANCE**

**EARLY BIRD PRICE — \$19.99 — Register by May 22nd**

**REGULAR PRICE — \$24.99 — Available until June 4th**

For more information, click <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/researchconference>.

Do you have brick walls that need to come down? Join the **Brick Wall Busters Special Interest Group (SIG)** and let us help you by suggesting new research paths to break down that wall!



Each brick wall will be briefly presented by the submitter at the meeting. Then discussion will open for suggestions from the group. Participants will have the opportunity to offer suggestions to provide more avenues to research. Remember, the more you can tell us about what you know (and don't know) and where you have already researched, the more we can help you!

Brick walls must be submitted no later than one week prior to the **Brick Wall Busters SIG** meeting. BAGS members may submit only one brick wall per meeting. Monthly brick wall submissions will be posted to the BAGS website and Facebook page several days prior to each SIG meeting. An email will be distributed when the pre-read availability has opened. SIG participants are encouraged to read the submissions prior to meeting but do not need to research others' brick walls. The aim of the group is to offer comments and advice on next steps in research to possibly crumble that wall.

Submit your brick wall (no more than 2 pages) in PDF format to [emailcoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:emailcoord@txbayareagen.org). Suggested items to include: a research question, timeline, family tree, locality, list of resources already consulted with short comment of results (positive or negative), or any information which is deemed important. Submissions can be in various forms: bullet points, outlines, paragraph summaries, as examples.

A brick wall submission is not required to participate in meetings. All members are welcome!

**Sunday, May 16, 2:00pm–4:00pm (virtual meeting via Zoom)**  
**ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. [CLICK HERE](#).**



**German SIG** (Special Interest Group) meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. For now meetings are held via Zoom.

**Mark your Calendar**  
**May 12 - June 9 - July 14 - August 11**

**[REGISTER IN ADVANCE — CLICK HERE](#)**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information contact [George Porterfield](#) or [Karen Engelauf](#), or complete [our survey form](#) to join the SIG.

## BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

The **Bay Area Genealogical Society Journal** publishes articles on a wide range of family and general history topics that may interest members. Some examples include:

- Images and transcriptions of artifacts such as family bibles, military and school records
- Biographies
- Research results for people, places, and events
- Local history of Galveston and Harris counties, including cemeteries, that is of interest to the genealogical community
- Analysis of conflicting or indirect evidence to solve a genealogical question
- Examples of research methodology
- Information on genealogical resources or techniques
- Pedigree charts
- Articles covering any geographical area



The [BAGS Members Only](#) page provides copies of previous issues of both the **Journal** and its predecessor, the **Quarterly**, including Table of Contents for each.

Todd Roberts, our new Journal Editor, has composed a [“Journal Article Submissions Q & A”](#) answering some of the more common questions about submitting an article for print. Email Todd at [journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org) with any additional concerns.

### BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance as of 31 January 2021	\$ 2,836.21
Deposits+	\$ 232.12
Expenditures*	\$ -112.16
Balance on <b>28 February 2021</b>	\$ 2,956.17

**JSC FCU SAVINGS ACCOUNT** \$ 5,704.26

**JSC FCU SHARE CERTIFICATE (CD)** \$ 6,042.01

**TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS on 28 February 2021** **\$14,702.44**

+ Consists of membership dues, donations, mailing fees and interest.

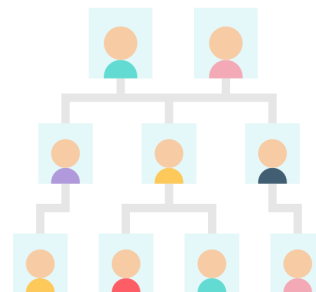
\* Speaker fee, PayPal fee, Texas Secretary of State filing fee

### Member Pedigree Chart submissions...

All members are encouraged to submit a pedigree chart of their family. The chart does not need to be complete and vital information about living relatives may be omitted. The chart will be available for members to review on the [Members Only](#) page — **“Pedigree Charts of Our Members.”**

Sharing your information could create a connection with other researchers that can help! Submit a chart or ask questions and get assistance from Anita Cooper via email to

[pedigree@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:pedigree@TxBayAreaGen.org)







### *Friendswood Family History Center is now OPEN to THE PUBLIC!*

Open weekly on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm.

*Please wear a mask. Volunteers available to assist.*

*505 Deseret Dr., Friendswood* (enter building on side furthest from the street)

#### **FREE Access to premium subscription websites:**

- 19th Century **British Library Newspapers**
- **Alexander Street Press** - American Civil War
- **American Ancestors** - Colonial & Early American
- **FamNet** - New Zealand family history network
- **Newspapers.com**
- **Paper Trail** - 19th Century westward American migration
- **Ancestry.com** - Institution Version
- **ArkivDigital** - Swedish Church
- **FindMyPast** - United Kingdom
- **MyHeritage** Library Edition
- **Puzzilla**
- **Fold3**
- **Geneanet** - UK

**In-Person Research Sessions** are offered on the **first Wednesday each month** at the **Friendswood Family History Center (FHC)**, located at 505 Deseret Dr, Friendswood ([online map](#)). Enter the building on the side furthest from the street. **The center will be opened only to BAGS members on those days.** Take advantage of the electronic databases and books that are only accessible from within the FHC. Six computers are available for research. Bring a USB drive to save the information that you find. **If you do plan to attend, please send an RSVP email to Kim Zrubek at [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) or text/call 832-660-5898.**



**WEDNESDAYS  
9:30 AM—11:30 AM**

*May 5 - Future 2021 dates to be finalized with FHC Director in May*

**Please wear a mask while in the building.**



### **Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**

The doors may be locked, but staff is answering phones and email. They are available to discuss strategy, identify specific resources to consider for your research, and provide referrals to other genealogical & historical societies or government agencies. Ask your specific question either via email to [cla.reference@houstontx.gov](mailto:cla.reference@houstontx.gov) or phone (832) 393-2600 between the hours of 10am and 5pm Tuesday through Friday.

## Clayton Library & Clayton Library Friends present...

### April Events

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Thu., Apr. 22, 2:00pm – 3:00pm | - HistoryGeo: Land Ownership Maps  |
| Fri., Apr. 23, 2:00pm – 3:00pm | - Researching African American Genetic Genealogy:<br>A Guided and Focused Approach |
| Thu., Apr. 29, 1:00pm – 2:00pm | - "The Eyes of Texas" roundtable discussion with Author,<br>Melvin E. Edwards      |
| Fri., Apr. 30, 2:00pm – 3:00pm | - Scrapbook Preservation   |

### May Events

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Thu., May 6, 1:00pm – 2:00pm   | - Finding Family History on eBay and Etsy                     |
| Sat., May 8, 10:30am – 12:00pm | - Reclaim the Records   |
| Fri., May 14, 2:00pm – 3:00pm  | - A Firsthand Look at Crypto Jewish Research and Sources      |
| Thu., May 20, 1:00pm – 2:00pm  | - Using Card Catalogs on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org    |
| Fri., May 21, 2:00pm – 3:15pm  | - Tracing Your Indigenous Roots in Northeast Mexico and Texas |



Visit the library website— <https://claytonlibraryfriends.org/events>—for more details on each program. Pre-registration is required to attend. A link to REGISTER your choice of events is included in each description.

## OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS...

There are many ways to contribute to our Society such as submitting articles to our newsletter or journal, participating in Members-Helping-Members sessions, or sharing knowledge in special interest groups. Another way is by filling a role on the Board. We have several vacant committee chair positions. Consider offering your skills to one of following:



**Are you a Human Resources person? Interested in onboarding new members of our Society?** If so, consider becoming our [Member Services](#) chairperson. (approximately 15 minutes per new member, 1.5-hour Board meeting once a month)

**Would you like to greet our members and visitors as they come to our meetings?** If so, consider becoming chair of the [Welcoming committee](#). Note: This position is currently inactive as we meet virtually and will reactivate once in-person meetings resume. (approximately 1 hour once a month prior to start of General meeting, 1.5-hour Board meeting once a month)

**TAMARA REED**

*was elected as Chairperson,  
Telephone Committee*

*Thank you, Tamara, for offering to  
lead the team!*

Job descriptions for the above roles are located on our website's Members page. Please send an email with your interest, skill set, and availability to [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org).

Take a look at the selection of FREE webinars offered on a variety of topics in 2021. One of these may be what you need to jump start research on that ancestor that still seems to be in a holding pattern on your TO DO List.



All on the list are offered FREE on the date and time of the presentation but require a membership fee for viewing the recording outside of a week after presentation.

[Click HERE](#) to review the full list of **MAY** webinars offered with descriptions. Remember to register for those of interest.

**Tuesday, May 4, 9:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Comparing Australian Content on the Giant Genealogy Websites

**Speaker:** Sunny Morton



**Wednesday, May 5, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Solving a Brick Wall with DNA — A Case Study

**Speaker:** Larry W. Thomas

**Friday, May 7, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Researching the Descendants and Ancestors of the Weeping Time People

**Speaker:** Brian Sheffey

**Tuesday, May 11, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Latest Updates to MyHeritage Genetic Groups

**Speaker:** Ran Snir

**Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** DNA Downer: Strategies for Dealing with DNA Fatigue

**Speaker:** Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J. D.

**Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** The Paternal Ten: Searching for Missing Heirs

**Speaker:** Claire Ammon, CG



**Wednesday, May 19, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Notion for Genealogists

**Speaker:** Lisa Alzo

**Friday, May 21, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Researching Canadian Nurses, Pilots, and Sailors in the First World War

**Speaker:** Kathryn Lake Hogan

**Tuesday, May 25, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** Advanced DNA Features on MyHeritage

**Speaker:** Ofer Karp

**Wednesday, May 26, 1:00 PM CDT**

**Topic:** How Testing Multiple Relatives Can Turbocharge Your DNA Research

**Speaker:** Michelle Leonard



## GENEALOGY WORD SEARCH

### DISASTERS

AVALANCHE  
FAMINE  
LOCUSTS  
HURRICANE  
TSUNAMI

DROUGHT  
FIRE  
ICE  
PLAGUE  
VOLCANO

EARTHQUAKE  
FLOOD  
LANDSLIDES  
TORNADO  
WAR

A	L	E	A	L	T	H	G	U	O	R	D	O	G	B
Y	C	Z	V	A	O	Q	G	J	M	O	A	Q	J	F
I	E	E	A	N	M	B	N	K	Z	B	D	W	U	O
N	B	U	L	D	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E
J	L	G	A	S	N	Z	L	E	F	Y	R	C	U	R
Z	S	A	N	L	W	K	P	O	W	H	Z	I	A	B
H	T	L	C	I	S	I	H	P	O	J	E	H	T	M
U	U	P	H	D	U	V	K	D	T	R	C	Y	J	H
O	M	R	E	E	X	L	A	T	S	U	N	A	M	I
S	N	Z	R	S	Y	N	O	F	X	J	W	F	E	T
J	R	A	H	I	R	P	I	C	T	R	L	X	N	P
P	Q	H	C	O	C	R	Z	T	U	O	F	I	I	J
L	P	U	T	L	E	A	N	B	O	S	W	Q	M	N
U	J	Z	G	R	O	A	N	D	Q	G	T	S	A	U
Q	F	E	B	C	U	V	Y	E	O	V	N	S	F	C

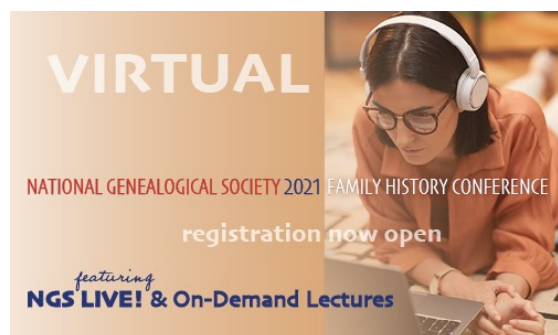
Puzzle created using Discovery Education's puzzle maker - <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>

## TIGR—Texas Institute of Genealogical Research June 13-18, 2021

The Texas State Genealogical Society's TIGR will be offered virtually in 2021 to accommodate safety protocols for students. It is your opportunity to take part in one of four, five-day courses, designed for genealogists researching ancestors in the Southwest. For details on this year's course choices, visit Texas State Genealogical Society's website at <https://www.txsgs.org/featured-events/tigr-2021/?orgId=txsgs> to learn more and to register.



## NGS LIVE! 19-20 May 2021



The National Genealogical Society's annual Family History Conference opened the 2021 registration for a week of workshops, LIVE presentations by nationally known speakers covering genealogical topics of interest, and a full program selection of ON DEMAND webinar packages to be viewed at your own pace between mid-June and the end of December 2021. For details on the schedule, programs and to register visit the NGS [website](https://www.ngs.org).