Request for Proposals

North Star Genealogy Conference
7-8 October 2022

The Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) requests breakout session and workshop proposals for the 2022 North Star Genealogy Virtual Conference, 7-8 October 2022.

About the Conference

The North Star Conference Committee is planning a conference with broad appeal to genealogists and family history researchers throughout the Upper Midwest. We have a diverse line up of amazing speakers, one of whom is Nicka Sewell-Smith.

This year's conference theme is **America's Tapestry**. With such a rich and diverse population in America, conference attendees will learn about diverse offerings, ways of thinking,to expand awareness of ways to be more inclusive, and how to access more diverse collections. Our hope is to show them what else is out there, how to access it, and how to be more inclusive in their own genealogy endeavours. So we're reaching out to a wide range of speakers from different backgrounds in hopes to give a really unique conference and expand their ways of thinking about genealogy.

The conference is expected to draw 200-250 attendees. The North Star Conference is an outstanding opportunity for aspiring genealogy educators to add speaking experience to their resumes.

What We're Looking for

The Committee expects to schedule 20 to 25 breakout sessions, probably in five concurrent tracks. The Committee especially invites proposals for presentations in six broad categories, that still offer a diverse outlook:

- **Diverse Groups and/or resources for finding them** – presentations on how to access and find sources or collections that specifically target diverse ethnic groups.

- **Sources for Research Success** – presentations on how to access and find/use sources of all kinds – ranging from basic sources for beginners to more unusual sources for advanced research. Emphasis on Upper Midwest sources is encouraged, but not required.

- **Productivity Tools for Research** – presentations that demonstrate technology, software, and other tools for efficient or well-organized research.

- **Methods for Evidence Analysis** – presentations that teach and illustrate methods and tools for analyzing and correlating evidence. Presentations that use case studies to illustrate best practices or the use of under-used sources are encouraged. Presentations that challenge intermediate and more advanced researchers are welcome, but they should be comprehensible to less experienced genealogists. These presentations might demonstrate how to evaluate

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sources and informants, resolve conflicting evidence, and merge or separate confounding identities.

- **Genetic Genealogy** – presentations that teach basic concepts, as well as more advanced presentations that demonstrate the use of DNA evidence to solve genealogical problems. More advanced presentations on topics such as triangulation, chromosome mapping, adoption research, ethnicity estimates, or the complications of endogamous populations are welcome.

- **Preserving Family history** – Presentations on ways to preserve family history and share with family and other researchers. Possible topics include heirloom preservation, photo conservation, and writing and publishing.

Proposals for presentations with an ethnic, geographic, or nationality focus are encouraged. The Committee will give favorable consideration to topics that complement the featured speakers' presentations and add variety to the overall conference program.

We are also planning an in-person pre-conference on Thursday, 6 October 2022 at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. We are looking for RFPs that are flexible in location. If we are unable to host it in person, we will make it a virtual offering.

Audience: The North Star audience includes beginning, intermediate and more advanced genealogists and family historians. Successful proposals may focus on beginner or more advanced researchers, but proposals suitable for intermediate level researchers are especially desired. Intermediate researchers are defined as those who are familiar with and have used the most common records to solve a genealogical research question. The best presentations will have some value for all levels, including highly motivated beginners.

Sponsorship Opportunities. Organizations interested in sponsoring or organizing a session are invited to submit proposals. In exchange for paying a speaker's honorarium, a sponsoring organization will have opportunities to promote their organization. The Minnesota Genealogical Society is very grateful to sponsoring organizations. Potential speakers may want to approach potential sponsor organizations. For more information about how to sponsor or help organize a sponsored session, contact Amy Jones (northstar@mngs.org).

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About Your Proposal

The North Star Conference planning committee seeks proposals from individuals, multi-person teams, or organizations. Proposals must be submitted on the official proposal form (see link below).

- Most breakout sessions will be one hour in length, but the Committee will consider proposals for 2-hour workshop-style sessions.

- Prospective speakers may submit up to six proposals.

- A speaker may be invited to give one, two, or three presentations.

Format. Standard sessions are 60 minutes, including time for questions. Presentations that include opportunities for audience participation or hands-on exercises are encouraged. Proposals for longer, workshop-type sessions will be considered. Illustrated talks are strongly preferred.

Handouts. MGS will make handout material available to registrants online in digital format prior to the conference. A handout, limited to four pages, is required for each lecture presentation (special consideration may be made for more pages for workshop-type sessions). Speakers own and retain copyright to all presentation and syllabus material. Handouts must be submitted in PDF format; handouts are due **5 September 2022**. Speakers who miss the submission deadline may be replaced on the program.

Compensation. MGS offers a $125 speaker honorarium for each standard one-hour breakout session, plus free Friday-Saturday conference registration.

Technology. Speakers must provide their own laptop computer or make arrangements to borrow one. MGS will make projectors available, but speakers are encouraged to make sure they have appropriate computer-to-projector cables and adapters for the kind of computer they use.

Submission Process. Submit no more than six proposals no later than **16 May** using the online submission form at https://forms.gle/7RNZqLHG39L4sRbGA Submit a separate entry for each lecture proposal.

Expectations of Speakers. Invited speakers will be asked to sign an agreement formalizing the invitation and the speaker's intent to attend. The agreement will incorporate the following:

- Failure to meet deadlines is cause for removal from the program.

- Handout material (2-4 pages) is required for all presentations.

- Speakers will provide their own laptop computer or other device required for presentation.

- A speaker who becomes unable to attend shall notify the conference chair immediately so that arrangements can be made for an alternate speaker.

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- MGS appreciates efforts by speakers to advertise and promote the North Star Conference on social media, websites, blogs, or by other available means.

The Society-Speaker agreement will include an option allowing presentations to be recorded for future viewing by conference attendees.

Key dates for presenters:

16 May 2022:   Proposals due
25 May 2022:   Notification of acceptance of proposals
1-30 August 2022:   Pre-record Sessions
5 September 2022:   Handouts due to MGS (instructions provided upon acceptance)
7-8 October 2022:   Conference