

AGRA CONFERENCE 2027
Land and Life - Researching our Rural Ancestors
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
10th -12th September 2027

Call for speakers

The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) is looking for speakers for our prestigious conference at Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester on the 11th and 12th September 2027.

Applicants do not have to be an AGRA member – or indeed a family historian - but you must have proven expertise in the proposed subject of their talk. You should not have given the proposed presentation before.

Testimonials/references may be requested to demonstrate your ability as a speaker.

You will be expected to speak for about 45 minutes followed by a Q and A session of up to 15 mins. Speakers will also be expected to provide a handout to accompany their talk.

The Conference's theme is *Land and Life - Researching our Rural Ancestors* exploring ways that delegates can build on they already know about their ancestors.

Topics might include:

- Migration from rural communities to towns and vice versa
- Challenges of researching rural areas
- Landowner, manorial and estate records
- Enclosure/Dispossession
- Occupations
- Industrialisation and Transport

- DNA

Speakers will be able to attend the conference free of charge. They will also be able to stay in the college accommodation overnight and attend both conference dinners at half rate.

Speakers will be asked to enter into a contract confirming the terms and conditions agreed.

Please send expressions of interest to Sarah Pettyfer at sarah@spfhhistory.co.uk by 30 September 2026 at the latest. Your submission must include:

1. proposed title of your talk
2. summary of the subject to be covered (100 words max)
3. short biography including details of when and where you have given recent presentations (200 words max).
4. Confirmation whether you have any objection to your talk being recorded
5. Confirmation whether you are happy for the talk to be hybrid (in person and online)

If you would like to discuss an idea for a lecture before submitting a proposal please contact Sarah Pettyfer - sarah@spfhhistory.co.uk.