



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 9, No. 1, January 2014

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

JOIN US!

If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member,
look at the back of your
Arkansas Family Historian.
Your membership expires
on the date printed under
your name.

It may be time to renew
your AGS membership dues!

As a new year begins, my wish is good health for you and yours and an enjoyable year. Also, I hope you have a successful genealogical year. Now I am wondering, how would I define a “successful” genealogical year? What would you consider “successful”? Before we can make that happen, we must have that answer.

Here I go again, telling you what to do. Each of us would have a different answer to that question, and that is just fine. I am suggesting that we each should set aside some quiet time to “ponder” as J. Mark Lowe would say. I need a plan to have a successful year and I would suggest that you do as well.

- ◇ Where am I?
- ◇ Where do I want to go?
- ◇ How do I get there?

The Organized Genealogist article in this eZine is certainly a good resource. Another is the Eastman Online Genealogical Newsletter, which has a free version and a paid version, currently \$19.95 annually. There are so many resources available with the internet and the books that it is easy to become overwhelmed.

My advice is read a few articles, make a plan, and get started. Remember, a plan evolves. When you need to change it, change it!

HAPPY HUNTING

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Tidbits –

SSDI (Social Security Death Index) access is now limited. The budget which was signed into law December 26th included language eliminating public access for three calendar years after an individual's death. As reported on Dick Eastman's newsletter, Judy Russell, author of The Legal Genealogist blog has an article concerning this subject on her blog. You can read it at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/>.

Dick Eastman has a very detailed article entitled "No, Family Names Were Not Changed at Ellis Island" which is quite informative. You can read the article on the EOGN site by clicking this [link](#).

Coming Events

January 8, 2014

Legacies & Lunch—Slave Resistance in Arkansas Examined. Kelly Houston Jones, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arkansas, will present "A Rough, Saucy Set of Hands to Manage," a discussion of her research on slavery in Arkansas. Noon—1 p.m. at the Darragh Center, main library.

January 17, 2014

"*The Goodliest Soyle*": *Finding, Reading, & Interpreting North Carolina Land Records* will be presented by Helen F. M. Leary on January 17, 2014 and continue free for all to view through January 19 on the North Carolina Genealogical Society website, webinar tab: ncgenealogy.org.

January 27, 2014

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club: Rescuing Genealogical Materials From the Dumpster presented by Pris Weathers & Desmond Walls Allen. 7:00 pm at Laman Library.

February 6 through 8, 2014

Roots Tech 2014 will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This annual family history conference is hosted by FamilySearch. RootsTech is a unique global family history event where people of all ages learn to discover and share their family stories and connections through technology. Registration is now open. Details may be found at <https://rootstech.org/>.

Coming Events continued

April 5, 2014

The Oklahoma Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar April 5, 2014, at the Oklahoma History Center, 900 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. See page 5 for more information.

May 3, 2014

The AGS Spring Workshop 2014 to be held at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas. More information to come. Save the date.

May 7 through 10, 2014

NGS 2014 Family History Conference, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel located in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Conference highlights and contact information for conference hotels can be found in the Announcement Brochure, which can be downloaded at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf

August 27 through 30, 2014

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. See the web site for more information, www.fgs.org.

May 13 through 16, 2015

The NGS 2015 Family History Conference, Crossroads of America will be held in St. Charles, Missouri.

Oklahoma Genealogy Society Spring Seminar April 5, 2014

The Oklahoma Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar April 5, 2014, at the Oklahoma History Center, 900 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dan Poffenberger, AG® is a British Research Consultant for the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is accredited by the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) in English research. He has been a professional genealogist for 24 years and has also worked as a US and Canada Research Consultant. Dan received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brigham Young University in Political Science, with a minor in Family and Community History. Dan has presented at numerous conferences around the United States and internationally.

Dan's grandmother was born in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma and his great grandfather, David Samuel "Sam" Robertson, was killed in the line of duty in 1929 and is listed on the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial.

The all day Seminar will offer five sessions, focusing on using FamilySearch effectively in your research, Irish research, Immigration, and using multiple sources to document the family stories that connect generations.

For additional information, to complete a registration form for use with a check or complete the online registration form for use with a credit card. Please visit us on line at www.okgensoc.org.

Identity Theft and That Old Computer

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

Many people worry about credit card numbers being stolen when used online. Indeed, that is a good thing to be concerned about but online theft of credit card numbers is extremely rare. Others worry about someone stealing identity theft information from genealogy sites. That, too, is a valid concern but is unusual. In fact, such methods are difficult and would-be thieves can find much easier methods to steal your personal information.

Writing in the MakeUseOf web site, Kannon Yamada describes one very easy method to steal all sorts of personal information: obtaining a used PC that had not been purged of the previous owner's information.

I will suggest that all computer owners need to read Kannon Yamada's article at <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-get-your-identity-stolen-in-one-easy-step/>.

Before you sell, give away, or throw away an old computer, you need to completely erase the hard drive(s). Just using the Windows delete commands won't do the job as there are a dozen or so utility programs that will undelete previously-deleted files. Instead, you need to wipe the hard drives clean, leaving nothing behind. You can find three different ways of doing that at <http://www.wikihow.com/Erase-a-Computer-Hard-Drive>.

I like a fourth method: remove the hard drive(s) from the computer, find a very heavy sledge hammer, and then pound the drives vigorously. Several times.

For more information, follow this link to Dick's follow-up article. http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/11/follow-up-how-not-to-get-your-identity-stolen-in-one-easy-step.html

Fire Destroys Genealogist Horst Blaich's Lifetime of Work

“The fire, believed to be caused by an electrical fault, also damaged fences on three adjoining properties, Ms Schildberger said. The property is owned by Horst Blaich, aged in his 80's, who has written five books on the Templar Society, a Christian community founded in Germany in 1861. Mr. Blaich's research papers were lost when the shed was destroyed.” You can follow this [link](#) to the Herald Sun Article.

It is fortunate that Mr. Blaich was not home at the time, but the fire caused a devastating loss to him. Those of us who have suffered loss of irreplaceable items to a fire may be able to relate to some degree, however, this is beyond my ability to fully comprehend. A search on Amazon will reveal that several of his books are readily available, however I suspect there was much information in his research that did not make it to any of the books. The loss of that information will likely not impact most of us directly, but there is no way to know if other people might feel the loss in the future.



Reading this report brings to mind our life time of research documents and photos. You may not be a published author or world renown expert in a field, but your papers are important. One can find many articles in print and online about how to safeguard you information. We are tempted to search out the “best” and most economical method to accomplish a task. Just how perfect a method is required?

I have heard, the best time to plant an oak tree was 20 years ago, the next best time to plant one is today! Whatever you do now is much better than what you do a year from now. Let me encourage you to get started safeguarding your information.

Texas State Library and Archive Commission

Beginning January 11, 2014, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission will expand its hours of operation to accommodate researchers. The Commission's three public service areas - the Texas State Archives, Texas Family Heritage Research Center and the Reference and Information Center - will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. The facility is located at 1201 Brazos Street in Austin.

State Library and Archives Open for Researchers on Second Saturdays

Please note: Researchers using original documents in the State Archives for the first time will be required to register and must present valid photo identification and proof of current address. On Second Saturdays, no materials will be pulled from closed stack areas after 3:30 p.m. In addition, all archival materials will be removed from the reading room at 3:45 p.m.

Our regular public service hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The library is closed on most federal holidays. To learn more about the Commission's collections and agency operations, please visit www.tsl.texas.gov.

Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent to reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov.

71 Digital Portals to State History

By Bill LeFurgy on the Library of Congress site

A recent NDIIPP intern, Ingrid Jernudd, did some research into current web resources that provide digital access to a broad array of primary source materials at the state level. She prepared a list of sites that billed themselves as general-interest portals to historical resources. Although the list is likely incomplete, I was surprised she found so many.

It is worth bearing in mind also that the list, with one exception, does not include local or municipal websites (the one exception is the Denver Public Library; its Western History and Genealogy site is included because it has resources that extend beyond Denver proper).

Most of the materials available through these websites are digitized versions of analog items. Many of the sites could, however, accommodate born digital content, as well as serve as useful models for the ongoing development of access to cultural heritage resources.

[Ingrid's findings are presented in the two tables listed on the website. Follow the link below to website.] Table 1 lists 66 websites that relate to individual states. Table 2 lists five sites that cover multiple states. If you know of resources that are not listed here, please let us know via a comment.

[Click on this [link](#) to access this Library of Congress resource.]

Historypin, A Global Community Collaborating Around History

Historypin is a way for millions of people to come together, from across different generations, cultures and places, to share small glimpses of the past and to build up the huge story of human history.

Everyone has history to share: whether its sitting in yellowed albums in the attic, collected in piles of crackly tapes, conserved in the 1000s of archives all over the world or passed down in memories and old stories.

Each of these pieces of history finds a home on Historypin, where everyone has the chance to see it, add to it, learn from it, debate it and use it to build up a more complete understanding of the world.

Historypin has been developed by the not-for-profit company We Are What We Do, in partnership with Google. You can use your Gmail account to log into HistoryPin. Click on this [link](#) to visit their website and view a 90 second introduction video.

NGS Issues Call for Papers for the 2015 Family History Conference in St. Charles, Missouri

Speakers as well as organizations interested in sponsoring lectures or tracks are invited to submit lecture proposals between 1 January 2014 and 1 April 2014 for the NGS 2015 Family History Conference, Crossroads of America. The conference will be held 13-16 May 2015 in St. Charles, Missouri, where Lewis and Clark officially started their two-year expedition. As the country expanded, primitive trails and waterways made settlements robust. Early pioneers left footprints creating pathways that soon became roads and rails, which carried families to many frontier destinations. The new areas offered those families many opportunities along with many challenges.

Among the topics being considered are lectures on migration, transportation, immigration, and ethnic and religious groups. States of interest include, but are not limited to, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, plus some feeder states such as Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. Regional topics include territorial records, land records, and military and pension records including the American Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, and Civil War as well as regional conflicts. Proposals are also solicited for the broader genealogical categories including federal records, national and state laws pertaining to the location and era, methodology, and analysis and problem solving, plus the use of technology for genetics, mobile devices, and apps in genealogical research.

Interested individuals and organizations should follow published guidelines at the NGS website, <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/call-for-papers/>.

Speakers may submit up to eight proposals electronically through the NGS website, <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/call-for-papers/call-for-papers/submit-your-proposal/> no later than 1 April 2014.

Organizations wishing to sponsor a lecture or track of lectures should review the details and sponsor requirements at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/call-for-papers/call-for-papers/ngs-2015-family-history-conference-sponsored-call-for-papers/>. The deadline to submit sponsored lectures is also 1 April 2014.

Free Irish E-books

Sean J. Murphy has been a genealogy instructor through Dublin's University College Adult Education Centre since 1989. He is generously sharing .pdf versions of books on seven of his projects. The titles of these publications are:

- A Primer in Irish Genealogy, Windgates, Co Wicklow 2012 Edition
- Memorial Inscriptions from the Moravian Cemetery, Whitechurch, County Dublin, Windgates, Co Wicklow, 2012
- St James's Graveyard Project, St James's Graveyard, Dublin: History and Associations, Dublin 1988 (the project booklet giving historical background) St James's Graveyard Project, Memorial
- Inscriptions from St James's Graveyard Dublin, Dublin 1988 (a full listing of the inscriptions with location map as compiled by the project team)
- Memorial Inscriptions from St Catherine's Church and Graveyard, Dublin, Dublin 1987
- Bully's Acre and Royal Hospital Kilmainham Graveyards: History and Inscriptions, Dublin 1989
- A Forgotten Patriot: Charles Lucas 17131771, Windgates, County Wicklow, 2009

To download these for free, go to Mr. Murphy's website (URL below), and click on the title or titles of your choice. You must have the free program, Adobe Reader, installed on your computer.

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~seanjmurphy/epubs/>

From The Melting Pot Genealogical Society newsletter Sep 2013 vol 3 issue 9

Lost Password: Prepare for the Unexpected

One of your Arkansas Genealogy Society board members was recently confronted by a sad and sobering event. With Russell's permission I will share a portion of his email with you.

Dear Friends:

I hope each of you had wonderful holiday and a great new year. Just before Christmas I found out that one of my cousins in Chicago who is single, lives alone, etc. suddenly died alone in her home at the age of about 48. She was active in my family history society and did much of the computer work of us. She kept up our family history website and was scanning our out of print Standridge family history to a CD. However, as far as we can tell, she had not shared her computer passwords with anyone in the family and that includes the password to the internet site. I am now trying to contact her family about all of this.

This has taught me a lesson. I am going to pass along to [*information withheld for privacy concerns*] all of my passwords so that if something happens to me suddenly, someone will be able to retrieve my files. This might be a good idea for all of you with extensive computer files. I hope none of us will have to face this problem but be prepared. We worry about our paper files - how about our electronic files?

Russell P. Baker

The Organized Genealogist – How Do You Become One

by guest blogger Susan Petersen, The Organized Genealogist on Upfront with NGS

The Organized Genealogist began as a blog in early May of this year. Over the years, I've written blogs on a variety of topics and organizing genealogy research appealed to me. I thought I had a few tips I might be able to share. Next came a Facebook presence to support the blog. I initially invited a few of my genealogy friends and posted the link to the group on my Facebook timeline. Others began spreading the word and less than two months later, more than 2,300 people have joined the group. Then I created theorganizedgenealogist.net web site to serve as a resource for the Facebook group.

The web site is in its infancy. My goal is to cull through the posts contributed by members and create a web site full of resources for people who need help organizing their genealogy. It will include links to web sites to purchase archive supplies, web sites, templates and more. Members have already been generous in sharing files, templates, organizing ideas in the Facebook group.

Personally, my motto has been "I don't do paper." As long as I can remember, I've not managed paper well. Although once I tackle a project, I'm great at filing and organizing and even enjoy it. I'm much more comfortable in a digital world - scanning documents and resources, making sure they are searchable so that I can find them on my computer.

Since starting the Facebook group, I've learned that there are many genealogists who have been doing research for a very long time, have collected a lot of documents, photographs, books, resources from conferences - you name it. And that stuff wound up in a pile. And the pile became larger. And then it became multiple piles - until it reached the point that it became so overwhelming that it was impossible to even get started organizing it. Some of us even joke that there could be a TV show called Genealogy Hoarders.

An amazing side effect of the Facebook group is that it has turned into a cathartic, therapeutic and healing environment for those who have been unsuccessful in managing their genealogy paperwork for decades. Many of the members truly are transforming from being genealogy hoarders to having organized systems and work areas. We are supportive of one another and we know we are in a safe place where we can ask for help.

The Organized Genealogist – How Do You Become One continued

The ideas are abundant. Some of the simplest suggestions have been transformational. A member may post a photo of an inexpensive product they are using to organize some aspect of their genealogy and by the end of the day, a dozen other people have done the same.

Everyone seems to accept the idea that everything does not have to be accomplished in one sitting. It's perfectly acceptable to organize one set of family records, create one binder, scan a few photos. I particularly like the 15-minute approach. Set a timer for 15 minutes, organize something and when the 15 minutes are up, you can do something else. It's amazing what can be accomplished in small pockets of time. The key to organization is to start.

But how do I start, you may ask?

Here are the basic elements of being an organized genealogist.

- Create a systematic filing system that is easy to understand and manage. The most common paper systems used are file folders, notebooks and binders, or a combination of all. Most systems are based on a surname structure, with family records filed together. Once a child marries, a new file is created for that family group - and so on for each generation. One of the popular color coding systems uses blue for ancestors of your father's father, green for ancestor's of your father's mother, red for ancestors of your mother's father and yellow for ancestor's of your mother's mother. Some computer programs allow you to color code your ancestor lines. Some researchers organize their research based on types of documents - marriage records, birth certificates, death records, etc.
- Keep a research log or journal. Keep a list of books, reference materials, census records and web sites where you have looked for information. Include the date you reviewed the source and what you found - as well as what wasn't there. This way you won't be looking at the same book many times. However, check web sites every six months since more digitized records are coming online all the time.
- Cite sources as you go. For every piece of research you gather, note the source, where you found it, and the library call number if applicable. Citing sources is essential to proving your research findings.
- Use a genealogy software program. The days of maintaining a paper-only database are long gone. There are many free and paid genealogy software programs available for entering your information. You can print charts, tables, reports and books from these programs. This makes sharing very easy.
- File, don't pile. Once you have collected documents or research notes, transcribe and file them immediately. Enter pertinent information in your genealogy software program. Process a document only once.

The Organized Genealogist – How Do You Become One continued

- Digitize and discard unnecessary papers. Limit paper files to original documents and photographs.
- Use acid free archival materials for storage of original documents, photographs and newspapers

For additional information:

- ◇ The Organized Genealogist Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/organizedgenealogist/> (you will need to be signed into Facebook before clicking this link)
- ◇ The Family Curator web site by Denise Levenick: <http://www.thefamilycurator.com/>
- ◇ Evidence Explained - a guide for citing sources by Elizabeth Shown Mills: <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>

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Short bio: Susan Petersen is a genealogist, writer and journalist who began researching her family history more than 30 years ago. Her LongLostRelatives.net blog began as a tool to connect with others researching the same families. She also provides tips for genealogists, success stories and anecdotes about some of her colorful ancestors.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! doug44mann@gmail.com –Thanks!

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