



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 9, No. 3, March 2014

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

Can you hear me now?

Spring is here, though I guess you noticed. Surely you have seen the trees budding, heard the birds, and experienced better road conditions, at least here in the South. I am ready for a research trip, how about you? No, I have not finished processing all data harvested last year! No, I have not planned my first 2014 trip! Does that mean I will not go? I AM going. How about you? I trust your discipline has been better than mine. Let me wish you a bountiful harvest in 2014.

March also has another meaning. The July 2013 Ezine was my “solo flight.” The September Ezine was published under my newly issued “editor’s license” compliments of Susan Boyle. She left really large shoes to fill. Let’s just put Susan’s shoes in the trophy case and I will wear my own. Which brings me to CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? My fellow board members have offered favorable comments about the Ezine, however, I believe they may be biased. Your input and comments would be appreciated. The Ezine is for you.

My goal is for this newsletter to inform about upcoming events, useful internet resources, other genealogists’ successful research methods, human interest stories, and anything else that might be helpful. As with teaching, the editor learns much more than the reader. My thanks for this opportunity.

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!

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Tidbits –

Good news about forthcoming online service for birth, marriage & death records from Northern Ireland. The General Register Office for Northern Ireland spent about 3 years and a lot of money digitizing their records. A by-product is an on-line resource for genealogists. The product may be live as early as March 2014. We learned of this Facebook posting of the North of Ireland Family History Society from the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter. You can go the Facebook posting by clicking [here](#).

NGS announced the release of the Mobile Conference App for the NGS 2014 Family History Conference which will be May 7-10, 2014. The app is available for iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows Phone, and Web-enabled devices. Search your app store for NGS 2014. Click [here](#) to go to the NGS site.

NGS Early-Bird registration deadline is March 24, 2014. You can register online by that date or your mailed registration form must be postmarked by that date. You can go to the registration page by clicking [here](#).

Coming Events

March 8, 2014

The Saline County Public Library, Benton, Arkansas is holding the 2014 Genealogy for You Seminar, 9:00–3:00, with Cyndi Ingle presenting. The event is free but pre-registration is required. This event is full, but there is a wait list.

March 13, 2014

Genealogy Program to be in Heritage Hall, Pope County Library, Russellville, Arkansas at 5:00 p.m. See page 14 for more details.

March 24, 2014

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club meets at 7:00 pm in the Laman Library in Little Rock. The program is “Nothing but Sorrow, Trouble & Worry—Ozark Homefront Experiences During the Civil War” by Susan Young, Shilow Museum-Springdale

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. Visit www.okgensoc.org for more information.

April 19, 2014

Northwest Arkansas Family History Conference will be held at Springdale, Arkansas from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Coming Events continued

Click [here](#) for more details and registration information.

April 28, 2014

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club meets at 7:00 pm in the Laman Library in Little Rock. The program is “A City Within A City: Little Rock’s Segregated Community” by Bryan McDade, Mosaic Templar’s Cultural Center, curator

May 3, 2014

The 2014 AGS Spring Workshop to be held at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The workshop is free, but space is limited. See page 19 for the details.

May 9, 2014

Education Civil War Event for Public, Private, and Home-School Students in DeValls Bluff.

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

Coming Events continued

June 6 & 7, 2014

The 25th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will be held in Leslie & Marshall, Arkansas. [Click here](#) to see the web site for all the details.

August 20-23, 2014

The NGS research trip to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana will be under the guidance of research consultants Janet A. Alpert and Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL. For more information click [here](#).

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.

November 2-8, 2014

NGS research trip to Washington, DC. Registration opens March 3, 2014

January 4-11, 2015

NGS research trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration opens March 17, 2014.

May 13-16, 2015

The NGS Family History Conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri at the St. Charles Convention Center.

Education Civil War Event for Public, Private, Home-School Students in DeValls Bluff

Attention Arkansas home-schoolers, private, and public schools! The Arnold Family Foundation is pleased to announce that Fort Lincoln Freedom Fest School Days will be held on May 9, 2014!

School Days was a huge success last year, and we had many requests to have it again! This event is an excellent opportunity for students and others to learn about Civil War history in Arkansas and engage in other educational activities!

Here are some of the highlights for this year:

- 1) Over 50 Civil War re-enactors and history makers will participate;
- 2) Re-enactors will have a canon firing demonstration;
- 3) A Fingerprint ID station will be at the event ;
- 4) A Civil War “Doctor” will talk about medical treatment of soldiers;
- 5) A Civil War “Embalmer” will explain the process of embalming;
- 6) Museum artifacts will be on display.

Also, lunch will be served free of charge! Please RSVP to Billy White, Director at 501-516-6064 with a count of those that will be attending. Be sure to let us know how many will want the free lunch, including teachers and bus drivers!

This article is from Arkansastoothpick.com.

NGS new American Genealogical Studies course

NGS proudly announces the release of its newest American Genealogical Studies course, Guide to Documentation and Source Citation. This course joins The Basics in the series of online courses developed by NGS to help those interested in finding their family.

In this three-module self-paced course, Michael Grant Hait Jr., cgSM, helps genealogists with one of the most confusing areas of genealogy research, “how do I cite my family information?” Knowing where we located our family information and keeping accurate notes, or citations, is the backbone of reliable genealogy. The course modules consist of lessons, examples, citations, and graded quizzes and cover topics on “Introduction to Documentation,” “Basic Citation Principles,” and “Applying Citation Principles.”

This NGS American Genealogical Studies course, Guide to Documentation and Source Citation, is available for \$30.00 for members and \$45.00 for non-members. For further information, to view the syllabus, or to purchase the course, visit the NGS website by clicking http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/guide_documentation_sourcecitation.

Guide to Documentation and Source Citation joins The Basics in the NGS’s online cloud-based learning management system. To take advantage of this system, you will need either a computer or tablet with an Internet connection.

NGS also offers several courses available in downloadable PDF files compatible for a PC or MAC. The courses are designed for both the beginner and the established genealogist to help busy individuals learn about a specific topic and to put the ensuing knowledge to work quickly. These courses include:

NGS new American Genealogical Studies course *continued*

- Using Federal Population Census Schedules in Genealogical Research
- Introduction to Civil War Research
- Genetic Genealogy, The Basics
- Introduction to Religious Records
- Working with Deeds

Book Review: My Family History Toolbox

The following book review was written by Bobbi King as reported by Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

My Family History Toolbox. Second Edition. By Paul Larsen. Published by EasyFamilyHistory.com. 2014. 145 pages.

This book is a compilation of Internet research sites and information about computer genealogy. You'd think we'd know it all by now, but the ever-increasing availability of online resources could overwhelm a researcher, particularly an inexperienced one.

Mr. Larsen had put together a colorfully illustrated guidebook.

He describes what he calls the best thirteen gadgets, gizmos and apps. He writes, "You can do your family history using a tablet" and then he encourages you by telling you how to do just that.

There are links to tutorials and online genealogy courses; videos, podcasts, and blogs; tools, forms, calculators, and worksheets; wikis; and genealogy webinars, with brief descriptions and whether free or not.

There are chapters on cloud computing, social networking, sharing files, PDFs, photo sharing tools, and genealogy software tools.

I would say this manual would be great for beginners, maybe less so for the experienced genealogist.

It's very visual, colorfully graphic, with brief instruction paragraphs that are concise and to the point.

My Family History Toolbox is available from the author at <http://goo.gl/QFmeQT> as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/HqZBHx> and from other genealogy bookstores.

The Essex Records Office adds Thousands of New Images

This article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter



The Essex Records Office (ERO) has added 473 new registers to the popular Essex Ancestors subscription-based web site. The newly-added 67,000 images have now brought the total number of available images to more than 580,000. The images were made of registers of births, burials and marriages. The parish registers available at Essex Ancestors cover the whole of the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford, which follows the boundaries of the historic county of Essex. In some cases, the records date back as far as 1538, during the reign of Henry VIII.

To see images of parish registers and wills online, you will need to register at the site and purchase a subscription. Prices vary between £5.00 for one day's access to £75.00 for a one-year subscription.

You can learn more and also access the images at <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/EssexAncestors.aspx>.

An *Essex Ancestors User Guide* is available at <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/GetPage.aspx?ID=97> and a list of *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) may be found at <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/GetPage.aspx?ID=93>

Megan Smolenyak's Unclaimed Persons Project

The Wall Street Journal ran an interesting article on page A3 of the September 11, 2013 issue titled “Internet Sleuths on the Hunt for Next of Kin.” I understand from one of the AGS board members, the WSJ does not permit any reproduction of their articles. The article is really too large to include in the Ezine anyway. It is about a crew of volunteers (genealogists) who assist coroners and medical examiners locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons. The following is a quote from the Unclaimed Person web site:

“It's a quiet but disturbing epidemic. People are going to their graves with no family to claim them. Medical examiners and coroners' offices—frequently overstretched with burgeoning case loads—are turning to an unexpected resource for help. Over 400 genealogists are now offering their volunteer services to help locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons. And it's working. To date, more than 400 cases have been solved through this unusual partnership.

Curious to learn more? We invite you to watch videos about actual cases and find out how to volunteer, or—if you're a medical examiner, coroner or investigator—gain a better understanding of how our Unclaimed Persons team can help you. “

You may be able to read the WSJ article at your local library. If not, the Legal Genealogist published an article on November 9, 2012 which you can get to by clicking [here](#). You can go to the Unclaimed Persons web site by clicking here <http://www.unclaimedperson.org>. There is always Google!

Most of us are busy working and we do have our local genealogy projects to support with our time, however, there might be some who are looking for another place to volunteer. It does sound rewarding and interesting. Even if you are not planning to volunteer, it is a very interesting read.

Discover GenealogyInTime Magazine

The following is taken from the GenealogyInTime website.

Discover GenealogyInTime Magazine, the world's most popular online genealogy magazine and one of the world's largest free genealogy websites. We have the tools and resources to trace your ancestors for free. Let us help you find your story:

- Use the Genealogy Search Engine and the Family Tree Search Engine. These are the most powerful free genealogy search engines available on the internet. Combined they search 7.0 billion free records from around the world.
- Keep up to date with the most comprehensive list available on the internet of the Latest Genealogy Records and Latest Genealogy Records by Country.
- Use the Rare Book Search Engine to find rare and out of print books about your ancestors.
- Download the very popular Genealogy Toolbar to help you find your ancestors.
- Read over 80 original Genealogy Articles including our Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2014.

At GenealogyInTime Magazine, we have a passion for genealogy and a determination to make it better. Our mission is to find new and innovative ways to help people connect with their ancestors.

See more at their website by clicking [here](#).

A Real-Life Example of Data Loss Caused by a Natural Disaster

“Disasters do not always happen only to other people. Today I received an email message from a friend and newsletter reader I have known for years, someone I see at most all the national genealogy conferences. He lives in Colorado, a place that has been in the news recently because of extensive flooding. Here is an extract from his message:

Hi Dick,

My house is in the middle of the flood zone in Longmont, Colorado. When I was evacuated, I grabbed my phone, laptop, and a few clothes and ran out the door. Fortunately, my DC phone charger was in the car but I keep all my passwords in a Rolodex in a secure location at home. Unfortunately, that didn't help me in the evacuation shelter.

What do you recommend for a secure "cloud" storage so I can access them in this situation?

After recovering from the shock of learning about a friend's disaster, I replied with a few suggestions. I thought I would share those suggestions here.”

The above is from a September 16, 2013 article in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. An earlier issue of the Ezine related another case of lost data, although that case was loss of the actual data. It is very easy to become lax concerning protecting the data you have.

Dick Eastman continues the article with his suggestions, but the article is quite lengthy. If you would like to read the complete article, click [here](#).

Mapping Your Genealogy with Diane L Giannini

Pope County Library in Russellville, Arkansas is having a Genealogy Program March 13, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

“Locating your ancestor's land, pinpointing where they lived and mapping their movements is another part of your family's story. We will explore various resources related to land and maps, talk about plotting migrations and creating maps using Google Earth. You will get ideas of how to incorporate maps into your family history.

Diane L Giannini, CG (sm) is a Certified Genealogist who brings several years of experience in research and professionalism to each seminar she conducts. She speaks both locally and nationally. She is a former board member of the Association of Professional Genealogist and serves as webmaster for the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. She maintains memberships in a number of genealogical and lineage societies. Her research firm, Ancestry Sleuths, celebrates ten years in business in 2014.

*"CG" & "Certified Genealogist" are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and are used by authorized associates following periodic, peer-reviewed competency evaluations

Please RSVP by email at cpark@popelibrary.org or call Charity at (479)968-4368 if you plan to attend.”

In my opinion, the October 3, 2013 program was well worth the trip.

Creative Thinking for Genealogy

The following article is by Jen Baldwin on Archive.com. For more information about [Jen Baldwin](#)

What do dog licenses, water permits and bawdy houses have in common? They are all resources that can - and should - be utilized in genealogy. You should walk into every new search with this simple concept: There are no limits. Your adventure back in time should include every facet of life imaginable.

Using your imagination and ability to think creatively is just as important to your research process as your ability to cite sources and transcribe records. The available resources are surrounding us; all we have to do is open ourselves to the possibilities.

Real Research Examples: The Reference Stacks

While rummaging the shelves in the local library, I stumbled upon Historic Sites in Summit County, Colorado: A Consultant Report to the Board of County Commissioners by Douglas S. Walter from 1976. This text includes a review of the current status of the more significant sites in the county, as well as environmental impact plans designed around their preservation. How did it help my genealogy search? The author included background information on the original owners of a historic building, and it became a source that went much farther than land and property records.

Another wonderful resource I have utilized often was prepared by the Summit County Information Systems Department; GIS Group, titled simply Summit County, CO Address Book (Summit County, Colorado, July 2003). There are some wonderful resources available that can explain the GIS system and its uses in genealogy, but what I value most about this particular book of maps is that it identifies the historical mining claims under the present day infrastructure. The volume allows me to put historical sites into context very easily, including the sites that no longer have existing landmarks.

The Town Clerk

Let's get back to those dog licenses and water permits. Luckily in my town, those were all kept in one volume, which was recently pulled out of a closet at town hall. Because I make a habit of visiting the town clerk on a regular basis, I

Creative Thinking for Genealogy *continued*

was there the day the staff had pulled all the "old books" out of storage. They were preparing to take them to the local heritage preservation organization for storage in the archives. When I inquired about the rather haphazard stack, I was told, "Oh, those would not be of interest to a genealogist." How wrong they were! The first piece I looked at was the "Register of Licenses Issued for the Year 1882-1896 for the Town of Breckenridge." Included in this long hidden gem were lists and lists of names - very exciting to a genealogist!

The pages included who obtained saloon permits, liquor licenses, and permits for running billiards tables. Prostitutes were required to pay for a permit. (Whether they used their real names or not has yet to be determined.) Traveling shows, peddlers and "express wagons" were required to be licensed by the town before they could sell their wares or perform their act. I found myself looking at 14 years of the town's population and those that traveled here. Did you notice the year span? This one volume tells me a great deal about the population of Breckenridge, Colorado for a period that includes 1890, the year without a surviving U.S. federal census.

At the very end of that volume were three pages that included dog licenses. The register includes what they paid for the license, if the dog was male or female, and the address of the animal's residence. For a town that never had any form of directory, this suddenly became a very big find. Who knew that dog licenses could lead to identifying the physical address of more than 100 residents?

Out in the Field

This creative thinking certainly does not begin and end at published books or registers. While enjoying a summer hike with my family, we stopped at a common resting spot to consider the options available. The sign and map describing the area were very well done, and I soon realized that the map was a great resource for me. It provided today's locations as well as the traditional names of the dirt roads in the area, all in one source. The photograph I took of that sign has proven to be so useful to me that I actually had it printed in poster size, framed, and hung it in my office. I have yet to find a map in a printed resource that matches that trail head sign, and I refer to it often.

A stop at the local Forest Service Office brought much more than I expected, including a collection of historic photos from the surrounding area, many of which I had not seen before. One of those included an image from now buried Ma-

Creative Thinking for Genealogy *continued*

sontown, Colorado of the Sabatini family, posing on the stamp mill. The true discovery moment came when a staff member noticed that I had looked at nearly all the historical images, and inquired as to my interest. When I explained that I was a genealogist, her first reaction was to hand me a forty-five page document that detailed every historical piece in their entire collection. This guide described photos, field guides, maps, and other miscellaneous items that somehow related to the general area of Summit County, its residents, and the forest. Not only were they able to provide me with a prepped inventory, they have the entire collection on site and available to the community.

From Home

How creative can you be on the Internet? (Is that a trick question?)

A recent search on Google Scholar allowed me to discover "In Memoriam: Edwin Carter" in *The Condor*, the journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society (vol. 31, no. 5, University of California Press, Sep-Oct, 1929, pp. 196-200). Edwin Carter became one of the most prominent historical figures of Colorado after he turned his house into a museum and wildlife display. The museum is still operated in the town of Breckenridge. Having never heard of ornithology before, this was certainly an article I would have otherwise missed.

Pieces of the puzzle can sometimes be difficult to find, and when that happens, I typically switch my focus to social history. How did this person live? One source I love to peruse for ideas is the online collection of Sears and Roebuck Catalogs. You can find many of them online via Google Books. These very important pieces of our cultural past make it easy to step back into time. What better way to understand their daily life than to see the tools they used to live it?

The key to creative internet searches is learning how to search effectively. There are a variety of resources available to the genealogical community, and my first suggestion would be to seek those out and develop advanced Internet search skills.

Dumb Luck?

I have heard the comments about my "genealogy luck" more than once. My opinion, however, is that none of these discoveries has anything to do with luck at all. The key to creative sources is to keep an open mind, and to not be afraid

Creative Thinking for Genealogy *continued*

to simply ask. Talk to everyone behind a counter that will listen - and to those who will not - and be politely persistent.

We have all had those days when the clerk just will not answer the phone, the email that does not get returned, the research request that gets "returned to sender" unopened (and yes, I still do send some requests by mail). This is the time to break out your charm, your bright smile, and your friendship. Offer those to your local clerk, no matter where your research is, and see what happens as that relationship develops naturally. I was unable to reach a clerk's office in a neighboring county; I tried unsuccessfully for three or four weeks. I finally asked my county clerk staff if they knew anyone, and I had an answer and a copy of the needed document within an hour.

The often talked about networking should not end with fellow genealogists, nor should it start there. Your networking must include the local clerk's, the owners of the restaurant that is in a historically significant building, the owner of the closest bookstore. It is within those human resources that you may find the most significant value to your research.

Conclusion

Creativity in your research can come in many forms, and I hope that my real life examples have helped you to understand that in genealogy, there truly is no limit. Every facet of life and human society can make an impact on our ancestors, so no question should ever go unasked and no resource should be ignored.

AGS 2014 Spring Workshop

**Arkansas Genealogical Society
2014 Spring Workshop
May 3, 2014**

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**Gibson Hall
Lakewood United Methodist Church
1922 Topf Rd, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116**

Agenda

- 8:30 AM - George Mitchell - President's Welcome/Housekeeping
- 9:00 AM - Steve Perdue - Saline County Library Resources
- 10:00 AM - Russell Baker - "So You Want to be a Cherokee"
- 11:00 - 12:30 - Lunch Break
- 12:30 PM - Lauren Jarvis - Arkansas History Commission Resources
- 1:00 PM - Jane Wilkerson - Immigration Research
- 2:00 - 4:30 PM Look up/Assistance/Questions

Also, go to our website: www.agsgenealogy.org

The workshop is free, but space is limited. Please register by April 25, 2014
You can print the registration form from our website.

Administrative Stuff

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

AGS: To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

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