



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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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!

Save the Date
The Arkansas Genealogical Society
2014 Fall Seminar
will be held on
Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20
at the Benton Events Center
Benton, Arkansas
The featured speaker on Saturday will be
Cyndi Ingle
A Genealogist for more than 34 years
Owner and Webmaster of *Cyndi's List*
Our own Russell Baker will present two lectures Friday night.

Plan on joining us; a good time will be had by all

Inside this issue

Coming Events	3-5
Best Free Online Genealogy Tools	6
Walks Through History	7
U.S. Marine Corps Offers Historical Database	8
Arkansas Civil War Seminar	9
You Can Help Rebuild Historic New York City	10
Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812	11-12
Free Family Record Forms	13
Belt and Suspenders?	14
Using Evernote to Share	15
Administrative Stuff	16

Tidbits –

A project to digitize Nebraska homesteading case files has been completed after a decade of planning, preparation and execution. The nearly 77,000 files contain more than 1.6 million digital images, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said Wednesday. The database can be searched and viewed for free at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, as well as UNL libraries, National Archives and Records Administration research centers nationwide and Family History Centers at several locations across the country. They also may be viewed for a fee at [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) or [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

Thanks to the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter for this insight.

The Irish government has closed part of its genealogy website after the country's data protection commissioner warned that potentially sensitive personal details were available to all. Click [HERE](#) for the details.

Thanks to the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter for this note.

Coming Events

August 2, 2014

The Kentucky Genealogical Society Workshop will be held in Frankfort, KY, on August 2. Mark Lowe will be presenting. WWW.kentuckygenealogicalsociety.org for more information.

August 9, 2014

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association Seminar will be held all day Saturday at the Broadmoor United Methodist Church, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport, LA. Advance registration recommended due to limited seating. The cost is \$40, which includes lunch. Go to their [website](#) for full details.

August 9, 2014

Walks Thru History by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Project will be of the Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District. See page 7 for details

August 15-17, 2014

The 2014 International Genetic Genealogy Conference will be held in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit their website by clicking [HERE](#).

Coming Events continued

August 16, 2014

Arkansas Civil War Seminar from 9:00 am to 12 noon to be held at the Old State House in Little Rock. The event is free and open to the public, but participants should register by calling Georganne Sisco at (501) 324-8641. You can find more information on the Arkansas Toothpick web site by clicking [HERE](#) or see page 9.

August 18, 2014

Civil War Dances by Josh Williams & Old Washington Dance Group at the Saline County Public Library in Benton at 6:30 pm.

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.

September 19-20, 2014

Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Workshop, Benton Event Center, Sept 19-20 Friday & Saturday. Cindi Ingel returns to Arkansas. The information is on our website. www.agsgenealogy.org

September 26-27, 2014

The National Standridge Family Reunion will be held in Greenville, SC. See the article on page 16 of the May Ezine for more information.

Coming Events continued

January 4-11, 2015

NGS research trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration opened March 17, 2014. Registration deadline is 15 November 2014. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

February 11-14, 2015

FGS is teaming up with RootsTech at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City to share keynotes, activities, and an exhibit hall while offering two separate conferences under one roof. See the [FGS website](#) for the details.

April 25, 2015

The 2015 Indiana Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting and Conference will be in Terre Haute, Indiana. Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist, will be the featured speaker. Follow this [LINK](#) to their website.

May 13-16, 2015

The NGS Family History Conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri, at the St. Charles Convention Center. It is not too early to make hotel reservations. Follow this [LINK](#) to the NGS website for hotel information. Conference registration begins 1 December 2014.

Best Free Online Genealogy Tools

The following article is from the GenealogyInTime Magazine. The article is quite long, so I have included only their introduction. Please go to the [GenealogyInTime](#) website to read the whole article.

Looking to take your ancestral research to the next level? In this article, GenealogyInTime Magazine has gone outside the box to find new and interesting websites to help trace your ancestors. We vetted hundreds of websites looking for those underpublicized gems that will help you get ahead. We then condensed the list down to the very best ones. Read on to find our selection of the best free online genealogy tools.

Ancestral research is part historian, part archivist, part detective work and with the occasional dash of good luck. In this article, we look at internet tools that will help you accomplish all four. And to further our mandate of using creative and innovative ways to help people find their ancestors, GenealogyInTime Magazine goes beyond the usual suspects like FamilySearch, or Dropbox.

We focus on websites that help you solve a specific genealogy issue. The one common theme with all the websites in this article is that none of them were specifically designed for ancestral research, but all of them can be very useful to a genealogist.

Walks Through History August 9, 2014



Ozark Courthouse Square Historic District
Co-sponsored by Main Street Ozark.

Meet at the Franklin County Courthouse at 211 W.
Commercial Street.

Ozark, which took its name from the French words “Aux Arc” in reference to a large bend in the Arkansas River near the town site, became the Franklin County seat in 1837 and served as an important stop for river traffic between Little Rock and Fort Smith. In 1885, a second county seat was established south of the Arkansas River at Charleston, making Franklin County one of ten Arkansas counties with dual seats. The Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad came through Ozark in 1876, prompting residential and commercial development. Downtown Ozark contains several distinctive buildings constructed with native limestone.

Sponsored by [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#).

U.S. Marine Corps Offers Historical Database

The following is from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#).

Family members of Marines who were wounded, killed, deemed a prisoner of war or missing during past wars can now access their loved ones' casualty card using the Marine Corps History Division's new online database. Each casualty card lists the military member's unit, service number, type of casualty, and date of death. Currently, there are digitized casualty cards for World War II, Interwar period 1946-50, and for war dogs, trained military dogs that served in combat. Korean War cards are scheduled to be complete and released this summer and Vietnam in the fall. To access the online database, visit the [U.S. Marine Corps History Division Casualty Card Databases webpage](#), or to request a copy of the original card, send an email to history.division@usmc.mil or a request in writing to:

United States Marine Corps History Division

Attn: Reference Branch

3078 Upshur Avenue

Quantico, Virginia 22134

My thanks to newsletter reader Claud M Sanford for telling me about this online resource.

Half-Day Arkansas Civil War Seminar

“Under Two Governments,” a half-day seminar on Civil War Arkansas in 1864, will be held at the Old State House in Little Rock on Saturday, August 16. The event is free and open to the public, but participants should register by calling Georganne Sisco at (201) 324-8641.

The Agenda

9:00 a.m. Introductions

9:15 a.m. Dr. Gary Joiner: The Camden Campaign: The Union Effort to Capture Shreveport

10:00 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m. Dr. Tom DeBlack: “Sound Common Sense, Good Intentions, and Scrupulous Honesty”: Isaac Murphy and the Unionist Government in Civil War Arkansas

11:00 a.m. Dr. Michael B. Dougan: “The real sting of being an exile”: A Swan Song for Confederate Arkansas

11:45 a.m. Question and Answer Session

Noon: Wrap-up

You Can Help Rebuild Historic New York City

For those of our readers who have “extra” time and ancestors who lived in New York City, I have included the following article from Eatman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter.

The New York Public Library (NYPL) is seeking help in a crowdsourcing effort to create a one-stop digital atlas of “old New York.” The project involves the help of software and public labor. The Library is training computers to recognize building shapes and other data on digitized insurance atlases. Via these easy, bite-sized tasks, you can help check the computers’ work and capture other valuable information. The result will be an accurate and detailed database that will help historians, genealogists, and many others explore the geography of the past. The goal is to produce a comprehensive directory of old New York (or, as the folks at NYPL like to think of it, a time machine).

To do it, the NYPL needs to harvest all the fantastic detail from the original maps: building footprints, addresses, construction materials etc. – clues that will help unlock a million stories. With this information organized and searchable, researchers can ask new kinds of questions about history. The project should allow researchers to peel back the layers of the city and replay its growth.

The software scans old maps of the city and uploads them to the Library’s website, where volunteers can inspect the computer’s findings for accuracy before they’re stored in the archives for good. For those interested in helping out, it’s a basic “polishing up” job – but, the creators say, it’s a much-needed polishing. About half a million maps and more than 20,000 atlases will be uploaded. They’re just paper to most eyes – flat, yellowing scrolls with outdated street names and funny fonts. Ben Vershbow, director of NYPL’s digital library, wants to change that perspective. “It would take years to do this sort of fact checking and meticulous work by ourselves. Really, it would be impossible.”

You can learn more about the project at <http://buildinginspector.nypl.org/general/about>. The project is available at the New York Public Library’s “Building Inspector” web site at <http://buildinginspector.nypl.org>.

Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812

One of the AGS board members, Karen Russ, made me aware of this opportunity. I know we are all busy and have plenty of ways to use our money, however... someone may be interested in donating to this project. There is a lot more you can read about the project on their website. The [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) also has a link to this site. The following is taken from www.preservethepensions.org.

Preserve the Pensions seeks to preserve and digitize 7.2 million pages of War of 1812 Pension Records with the help of the genealogy community.

The bicentennial of what's been called "America's Second Revolution" began on June 18, 2012, and over the next three years, the public will turn its attention towards key anniversary events including the Burning of the White House and the Writing of the Star Spangled Banner.

What better time than now to also highlight the importance of saving the War of 1812 Pension Files? Our community has a proven track record of winning previous document preservation battles and we will win this fight.

Thankfully we have partners such as the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Archives, fold3, and Ancestry.com who have generously donated time, money and resources. But even with this level of support, we can't do it alone.

Stay tuned here at the Preserve the Pensions blog for updates, success stories of researchers using the War of 1812 Pension Files and more.

They have raised about 35% of the goal as of today (July 24) and have preserved 1,194,000 images as reported by a counter on their website. You can watch the counter increase on the website. The National Archives reports that these War of 1812 pension files are among the heaviest requested materials. With that level

Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812 *continued*

of use, these valuable records, available in no other format, are in danger of grave deterioration.

Completed images and associated indexing are posted incrementally. Genealogists, historians, teachers, patriotic societies, and history buffs all have access to the images that have been digitized [now](#). Images will be offered free at Fold3 indefinitely.

I have followed the “now” link in the previous paragraph and it does take you to a search. However, you will need to create a Fold3 account to print or download a file. Fold3 does have a free account, however I stopped at this point since I have a paid account.

There is a tab on the Preserve the Pensions website called “Honor Roll,” which will take you to the list of people and organizations who are donors.

Free Family Record Forms from the Library of Congress Web Site.

This article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

Long before the invention of home computers that could generate forms, many families recorded their important family events within their Bibles. Whether printed as part of the Bible or printed on separate paper forms that could be stored alongside the family Bible, these forms often were ornate with beautiful artwork. The Library of Congress has collected many of these forms and made them available online. Some are simple "fill in the blank" forms while others have space to manually paste in pictures. All of the forms are available free of charge.

You can download any of these old Family Records and Family Register forms and even print them on your own printer, then use them as you wish. Many of them are "oversized." If so, they cannot be printed on a normal computer printer that only handles 8½ by 11 inch paper. However, you can always save them to a flash drive and then have them printed on an oversized printer or plotter at FedEx Office (formerly called Kinko) or other service that has such hardware available. You can even send the print image to online to <http://www.fedex.com/us/office/> and either pick up the finished printout in person or have it shipped to you. You will have to pay a few dollars for the printing and shipping, of course.

You can find many Family Records and Family Register forms by starting at: <http://www.loc.gov/search/?q=Family+Records+and+Registers>.

Some of these forms are huge! Downloading them may take a minute or two on a slow to medium speed Internet connection. However, I will suggest the results are worth the wait.

Belt and Suspenders? Backup is Important

It is my opinion that a computer data backup is of little value as long as the computer is working and available. When the unthinkable happens, that backup becomes priceless! You may have read accounts of data loss due to fire, flood, storm, or just equipment failure. We tend to read those accounts and continue without much thought. In the 80's (1980's) I had a policy of making a backup of our business data files at the end of the day, each day, and taking that set home. Then next morning I would bring the other set back to the office. We rotated between 3 set of 8 inch floppy disks. Yes, 8 inch. I became complacent and would leave the backup in the safe overnight at times. YES, we had a fire! The backup (5.25 inch floppies by this time) was in the safe, but the safe had been full of water and the plastic floppy sleeves were damaged and the floppies were warped. I was able to recover, but with a lot of effort. I learned my lesson the hard way. Let me encourage you to learn from my experience.

The technology available today makes it very easy to keep our data safe. There are multiple methods and services from which to choose. I would divide them into three categories:

- 1)Physical devices
- 2)Cloud drives
- 3)Backup services

Which one should a person use? I use all three! I keep 3 USB drives in my bank safety deposit box, trading out the oldest monthly. I use Drop Box, OneDrive, and Google drive for certain files as needed. Presently I am using the backup service provided by my Norton 360 Security subscription for certain files. There are many other choices, so pick the one you find the easiest and that you will use. If you are not backing up now, just pick something and start. You can always switch later.

I will give you a warning. Read the fine print before you create an account with any of the cloud drives. There are some free cloud accounts that require you to give them certain rights in return for providing a free service. I see no reason to do that! It is worth a little money to retain all rights you own.

Using Evernote to Share

There was an article about Evernote in the April issue of the Ezine. If you missed it, you can go to the [AGS website](#) to read it now. Since then, I have been using Evernote and have decided that it is a tool I will continue to use. No, I do not work for Evernote nor do I receive any consideration from them. Allow me to share this experience.

We made our first research trip to Pickens County Georgia, in the middle of July this year. My great grandfather and his family lived there in 1850 and 1860. His father, grandfather, and many other relatives were in the area also. Some of my ancestors remained in the area, but my great grandmother, with her children, moved to Pulaski County Arkansas, by 1870. We were able to spend some time with Pat, a very active member of the Marble Valley Historical society, who has possession of the Bible which belonged to my third great grandfather, John Morrow Mann. We also spent time in the genealogy room (always sign the register) of the library in Jasper, Georgia, the court house in Pickens County and the court house in Cherokee County. Using my 11.6 Dell computer, I recorded all my research findings in Evernote. Evernote is designed to be subdivided into notebooks, then pages within the notebooks. Within the Evernote app on your iPhone, you can use the camera to capture documents as well as photos to include on pages. Evernote syncs across all devices, in my case, two computers and my iPhone, so whatever you add on one device appears on the other devices. I am definitely not an expert on Evernote, but I am impressed.

As we were driving back home, I received a phone call from one of my distant relatives from Virginia who has been very active in researching my family, among others, for about 30 years. Buck was calling from the Jasper Public Library genealogy room! He was totally surprised to see my name on the log. We had never met in person, only by phone and email. Neither of us could believe we missed meeting in person by one day. Back to Evernote, using my iPhone, with a few “touches” I shared the notebook which contained all my findings from this trip with Buck. He was able to read my notes while he was there, in the library, and take advantage of my efforts using his iPhone.

After I got home I discovered the iPhone Evernote App, using the camera, will extract the information on a business card and create a contact page. I continue to be amazed. You, too, might find Evernote useful. Cyndi Ingle is presenting “Evernote for Every Genealogist” at the AGS Fall Conference.

Administrative Stuff

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

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