



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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Do you know what is happening September 19 and 20?

The front page of the last two Ezines have been promoting the Arkansas Genealogical Society 2014 Fall Seminar which will be held Friday night and Saturday all day. Cyndi Ingle will be on for Saturday and our own Russell Baker will take care of Friday night. You can visit our [WEBSITE](#) for the details.

You still have time to register. The cost for Saturday is only \$40. Friday and Saturday together are \$55. You can add a Saturday box lunch for \$10. Let me add, the opportunity to hear Cyndi Ingle in person and ask her questions is one you may not have again. Nothing can compare to a live presentation by a genealogist with Cyndi's experience.

The AGS is a tax exempt entity, so the AGS does not hold these seminars to make a profit. Why does the AGS conduct a seminar every year? Part of the AGS purpose statement is "to educate persons in genealogical research methods and the use of historical records." Please, come and let us "do our thing." I am sure that you will benefit and enjoy. While you are there, don't be shy! Find a board member or another member and become acquainted. Ask questions and become a part of the community. We are just "folks."

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!

Inside this issue

Coming Events	3-4
Free History Lecture	5
The Tennessee/Ancestry Library Event	6
Oklahoma Genealogical Society Fall Seminar	7
The Master Genealogist Discontinued	8-9
Dangerous Pitfalls of Death Records	10-11
Who is That On the Left?	12
Reference Room Closing	13
How To Tell You Are a Genealogist	14
Citations: What is the Big Deal?	15
Administrative Stuff	16

Tidbits –

The United States Daughters of 1812 is forming two new chapters in Arkansas. We are looking for prospective ladies to become charter members. One chapter is located in Northwest Arkansas and the Organizing President is Patti Trudell, 19 Coventry Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72714-5103, phone 479-866-7409, email usd1812.new@gmail.com . The other chapter is in Southwest Arkansas (Texarkana) and the Organizing President is Betty Williams, 50 Rankin, Ashdown, AR 71822-3506, phone 870-571-5614, email cal-lie7402@att.net . Membership requires proof to an ancestor who gave civil or military service from 1784-1815.

The Ancestry Insider wrote “On the first of August, Ancestry.com released new terms and conditions.” As a subscriber, I do not remember being notified. You can follow this link to [The Ancestry Insider](#) piece to read their article.

The Ancestry Insider also has a piece titled “Ancestry.com United States Obituary Collection of Limited Value.” I suggest you follow this [LINK](#) to read the article. Be sure to read the comment from Anna!

Coming Events

September 13, 2014

A free half-day symposium from 9:00 a.m. until noon in Dickinson Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock by the Arkansas History Commission and Sequoyah National Research Center. See page 5 for details.

September 19-20, 2014

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

September 20, 2014

The Tennessee / Ancestry Library Event will be held at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel. See page 6 for more information.

September 22, 2014

Heritage Seekers meet at the Laman Library at 7:00 p.m. Sam Taggart, MD, to present *The Public's Health: A Narrative History of Health & Disease in Arkansas*.

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

October 4, 2014

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society Fall Seminar will be October 4, 2014 in Oklahoma City. See page 7.

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, the Embassy Suites is sold out. Follow this [LINK](#) to the NGS website for hotel information. Conference registration begins 1 December 2014.

Free History Lecture

The [Arkansas History Commission](#) and the [Sequoyah National Research Center](#) will be hosting a free half-day symposium on Saturday, September 13 from 9:00 a.m. until noon in Dickinson Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Symposium's theme, The Great War: Researching World War I in Arkansas Archives, will feature presenters, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, Roy Boney, and Amanda Paige.

Topics will include Cherokee Code Talkers in World War I and Beyond, American Indians in World War I: Choctaw Case Study, and Letters, Scrapbooks and Discharges: WWI Treasures at the Arkansas History Commission.

The Arkansas History Commission, located in Little Rock, is the official state archives of Arkansas and maintains the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world. Associated with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Sequoyah National Research Center maintains the largest collection of Native American expression in the world and works to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans.

For more information about the symposium, call the Arkansas History Commission at (501) 682-6900 or Dr. Daniel Littlefield at (501) 569-8336.

The Tennessee / Ancestry Library Event

Don't miss the Tennessee Ancestry Library Event (TALE), a day to discover and celebrate your family history! Classes taught by experts from Ancestry and the Tennessee State Library & Archives will help you take your skills to the next level. This full day of genealogy classes, sponsored by Ancestry.com and the Tennessee State Library & Archives, will be held at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel (623 Union Street, Nashville, TN 37219) on Saturday, September 20. All attendees will be entered to win door prizes including Ancestry.com World Deluxe Memberships, copies of Family Tree Maker, AncestryDNA kits, and more. Space is limited, register today!

Classes will include:

- How to Search Successfully to Tell Your Story on Ancestry.com. Presented by Anne Gillespie Mitchell
- Your Ancestor's Lawsuit: Finding and Using Tennessee's Supreme Court Case Files. Presented by Chuck Sherrill
- AncestryDNA: Another View into Your Family Story. Presented by Anna Swayne
- Thankful Taylor case study. Presented by J. Mark Lowe
- Jumpstart Your Research. Presented by Juliana Szucs Smith
- Q&A Panel Discussion

Registration for the all-day event is only \$30.00. You can register with this [LINK](#).

Oklahoma Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will hold their Fall Seminar, *DNA and Your Genealogy: Breaking Down Walls and Finding Family*, October 4, 2014, at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Have you done DNA tests and don't have a clue what the results mean? Have you wondered if DNA testing can really be helpful to you? Do you have questions about which husband was the father of a child or which wife was the mother? Are you trying to prove connections to other families and can't find a paper trail? Want to find cousins who may have your answers?

Learn how DNA can help.

Debbie Parker Wayne's research is focused on genetic (DNA) research as well as traditional research. She specializes in Texas, Southwest, and the Southern U.S. In addition to her research, Debbie coordinates and teaches comprehensive, interactive genetic genealogy courses teaching how to interpret and apply DNA test results to your genealogy.

Join us to learn how DNA testing can help you break down walls and grow your family tree!

Sessions:

- GATA GACC! DNA and Genetic Genealogy Today
- Maternal Lines: Using Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA):
- Paternal Lines: Using Y-DNA
- Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent

Early Bird Registration ends September 13, 2014

Members \$35/Non-members \$45

Registration includes lunch.

For more information and to register please visit our [website](#):

The Master Genealogist to be Discontinued

Thanks to Dick Eastman and his [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for bringing this to our attention.

Sad news! The following announcement was made today by Bob Velke, the owner of Wholly Genes, Inc.:

I am sad to report that the decision has been made to discontinue The Master Genealogist (“TMG”).

While thousands of TMG users appreciate the program's many powerful features that are unmatched in other software, the market for those advanced features has proved to be insufficient to support the infrastructure that is necessary to support it and continue development. A variety of my own health issues have also contributed to this decision as I have fewer opportunities to focus on the things that would be necessary to develop and market the program.

There is every reason to believe that TMG will continue to work for existing users for the foreseeable future but official support will end at the end of 2014, although we may release some more bug fixes (but no new features) before that. In the interest of those who may want to communicate their data to family members or upgrade to the latest release, we will continue to sell the full product and updates through September with the understanding that product development has been discontinued.

After the end of the year, I expect to maintain the support forum which would be available for user-to-user support. Other online support forums, including the TMG-L mailing list, are also available to users.

For 25 years, TMG has repeatedly pushed the boundaries of genealogical software and promoted the highest principles of scholarship in record-keeping and reporting. It has encouraged users to expect more from their family tree software, especially in the area of source citations, and the industry has responded by setting new and higher standards in its suite of “standard features.” To lesser degrees, programs have begun to emulate some of TMG's other innovative features, including its powerful filtering/searching functions, flags, customizable screen layouts, shared events (i.e., witnesses), and narrative output options.

The Master Genealogist to be Discontinued *continued*

As genealogical data has become more sophisticated, researchers have been increasingly confronted with the many limitations of GEDCOM in transferring that data. For more than two decades, our GenBridge technology has demonstrated that much more complete and accurate transfers can be achieved through direct imports. Other family tree programs have implemented the GenBridge technology or developed similar direct-import strategies, resulting in the preservation of precious data for countless researchers.

I am proud of the leadership role that TMG has played in the evolution of genealogical software and I encourage TMG users to continue to press developers to raise their standards and implement features that allow researchers to do the same.

In the interest of preserving users' data, I have released a document that details TMG's internal file structure and I will make GenBridge available for free to developers who wish to produce a direct import from TMG insofar as their programs support the same features.

It goes without saying that this has been a painful decision and is a significant milestone for me. TMG has been a major part of my life for more than 25 years and it is not easy to let it go. I recognize too and regret the degree to which it may leave researchers uneasy about the future of their data and the prospects for their research tools. I am taking a necessary step back from the genealogical community but with the hope that my contribution to it has left researchers better equipped to accomplish their research goals.

Bob Velke

Owner

Wholly Genes, Inc.

Dangerous Pitfalls of Death Records

There may be some of our readers who are not aware of the following information. A reminder to those of us who already know is certainly a good idea. The following is from Michael J. Leclerc on the [Mocavo](#) website. Let me encourage you to visit his blog regularly.

Death records are one of the most commonly used sources for genealogists. They have been around, in one form or another, for centuries. But one must be careful to use them properly. There are some pitfalls in using them.

1. Records may have little identifying information.

During the early years of statewide registration of vital records, the information on death records is often quite thin. Parents' names are often not given, nor is information on place of birth. Often the name and date and place of death is the only information recorded. It is not until the twentieth century that you may get more information, and even then the information will vary from place to place.

2. Beware church and sexton's records.

Church records of burials and cemetery sexton's records are often a good substitute for death records, especially in times and places where death records are not available. Remember that these are usually dates of burial, not dates of death. Some cemetery records are not burial records, but transcriptions of grave markers. Dates carved into grave markers are usually dates of death, but they can be in error. There is no "Wite-Out" for stone, when a carver made a mistake, it was literally etched in stone.

3. Deaths at institutions often have less information.

Many of our ancestors died at almshouses or state hospitals. Unfortunately, the death records of those who died

Dangerous Pitfalls of Death Records *continued*

in such institutions often provide less information. The informant on such records is often the institution itself. If the patient or inmate did not provide extensive information upon admittance (or if the institution did not ask for it), then there will be less information on the death record.

4. Informant's information can be in error.

There can be issues with the data provided by an informant, especially when it comes to things like parents' names and places of birth. Informants are often in shock or suffering from grief. In their shock and grief, they may unintentionally give incorrect answers to the questions they are being asked.

5. There may be multiple "originals."

Once statewide vital records registration began, you will often find multiple "original" records. For example, in New England, vital records are recorded on the town level, and a copy is sent to the state. The town copies were created from the returns of death reported by physicians and undertakers. Sometimes both sent a return to the town. Thus, there may be as many as four "original" documents, and the information may not be the same on each document, so you must examine each.

Who Is That Guy On The Left?



Do you have some photos like this? Two of the people are identified but who is the other man? Where do you turn for the answer? You can't call the Ghost Busters.

In this case, I know the surname and family of Row and Jilson. I even know what Row is a nickname for. If I had several different photos of Mister Unknown in other groups of people, I could likely arrive at a very good guess, which I have done on a few occasions. It would be nice to have some other options.

There are a lot of helpful hints on the internet, you just have to find them. Upfront with NGS has a good piece you could review, just go to this [LINK](#). I would also recommend an article in the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at this [LINK](#). Good Luck!

Reference Room Closing – Oregon State Library

The following is from Upfront With NGS:

It's always sad when we hear about a library closing and when we are talking about the reference room at a state library that just seems to compound the pain. Just today, I spent hours in the reference room at the State Library of North Carolina, on the mezzanine level of the building, looking at books from several Virginia counties, some North Carolina counties with a bit of Revolutionary and South Carolina Baptist books thrown in for fun. I cannot imagine not having access to this collection whenever I start a genealogical journey. This collection of books is critical to the research I do.

Well, unfortunately, come 1 October, those visiting the Oregon State Library will no longer have access to the reference room collection. Read [Salem genealogy, history buffs are losing a hidden gem](#) to learn more about the history of the room and its collection, the volunteers who have kept it running and why it's becoming unavailable. Here is the [Message from the State Librarian About the Reference Room](#).

This just reminds us that there are collections to which we currently have unfettered access which may be at risk of also closing.

Though I frequently visit the State Library of North Carolina, often a couple of days every week, I can honestly say that I can't remember the last time I visited my local library, except to drop off books to be used or sold at the annual sale. If that library were to close I would be saddened and yet can I say that I am doing my part to make sure that that doesn't happen? Well, not really ...

So, let's take a moment and appreciate our community and state libraries and the services they do provide to us. How would you feel if they all of a sudden disappeared? (Copyright © National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22204-4370. <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.)

Losing this resource in Oregon might not impact you directly, however, our resources might one day be at risk. Being aware of local politics and letting our voices be heard is something we all can do.

How Can You Tell If You Are A Genealogist?

Well? How can you?

One clue: every time you drive by a cemetery you have an urge to stop! You might want to take photos of the markers, make a list of who is there, look for someone you might know about, etc. One question our son asks when we return from a research trip is “did you see any dead relatives?”

Yes, cemeteries are important to the genealogy world. Those listings which were made many years ago, before the markers became illegible or went missing, are invaluable to a researcher. I expect that many of our readers have been involved in canvassing a cemetery or two. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

“Walking” a cemetery of one’s ancestors can provide some valuable clues. Look at the neighborhood. I mean those graves close by and even not so close. Usually, but not always, there is a connection between the graves in close proximity. Make a list, but also make a diagram and allow that resource to be published through your local Society or through AGS. You will be thankful down the road, as will future researchers. Your notes could help a fellow researcher break through a “brick wall.”

There was an August article in Upfront with NGS which caused me to write this piece. The title of their article is “Please, Please, Please treat cemeteries and tombstones with respect!” It is about cemetery preservation methods and the legal issues in taking photos. Please follow this [LINK](#) to the article.

Citations: What is the Big Deal?

Basic Research Procedures: why does it matter?

First, let's consider these questions:

- What am I doing?
- What do I think I know?
- What do I really know from the facts?
- What questions do I have now?

So, what am I doing? Am I just curious, preparing a family tree for my cousins, writing a family history, publishing a family history book, writing an article for a Quarterly Journal, or becoming a professional genealogist?

Your goal will have a bearing on the final product of your research. However, the research procedures you use should be the same for any goal. Using poor procedures might lead you to believe that your ancestor was a king. The opposite could also happen, you might miss the fact the he was a king. Even if we are just curious, we should want to get it correct. If I was going to create a fiction, it might as well be a really good one!

That leads me to citations. Citations provide the information which allows an interested person to look at the same documents that we used to establish a fact. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* by Elizabeth Shown Mills is the standard most used in genealogy publications. If you do not want to make the effort to format the citation to the standard, at least put all the information in your citation needed to find the source again. I am guilty of failing to collect all the source information in my earlier days (like July). There are still facts in my data missing the source information and I continue to search. One of these days I hope to revisit the Court House in Blount County, Alabama, to find the "green" book in the basement that I really want to look at again. I am improving my methods, just not there yet. Change your ways researcher, before it is too late!

Administrative Stuff

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

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