



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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Where do you like to eat?

A strange way to begin a genealogy piece. This is a reminder that November will likely be your last "meal" until January. I am talking genealogy nourishment, your local genealogy society meeting. Most societies do not meet in December, so we have to go without until the January meeting. You do go to your local society meeting don't you?

I attend the Texarkana USA Genealogical Society meeting most months. I do not have any ancestors in Bowie County, Texas or Miller County, Arkansas. (We cover both states with one society.) The data and history of our counties or the adjacent counties, though interesting, will not help with my research, but being a local member is valuable anyway. I always learn something helpful from the presentations by our members and our invited presenters. There is a lot of educational material on the internet, but remember, most of those blogs or newsletters are published by profit seekers. You local members are full of experience and low on agenda. They just enjoy the opportunity to share and to help. Having an opportunity to make your own presentation is another benefit of being a local society member. The audience is usually forgiving, appreciative, and supportive. It is a good way to learn a new skill or hone the skill you already have. You can share what you know and boost your "feel good" at the same time. Enough said.

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	3-5
The Scan Plan from NARA	6
October 10 Was Electronic Records Day	7-9
Little-Known Government Service	10
Saving Your History in the Cloud	11-12
Cooke's Genealogy Gems	13
Walks Through History	14
Irish Archives Resource Goes Online	15
A Digital Newspaper Search Engine	16-17
Indiana's Digitization Project	18
Administrative Stuff	19

Tidbits –

Barry J. Ewell writes on his blog, [Genealogy by Barry](#):

“During the last 90 days on the blog Genealogy by Barry, I have begun a 12 month study entitled “Topics Genealogists Value Most and Why.” The project will carefully look at the topics that genealogists consult in learning and completing various projects associated with genealogy and family history. In the coming months, I will regularly share the insights learned and how you can use the information to advance your research skills and success.”

Please follow the link above to see Barry's article “25 Topics Genealogists Care about Most.”

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation from the [Fort Wayne Library](#) Genealogy Gems newsletter, No. 127; Sharing as a means of keeping our records safe. In addition to making backups and keeping offsite copies, you might consider submitting some of your data to a local or state genealogical society; your state or your ancestor's state. How many times have you uncovered valuable data in a local library or by reading a society journal? The goal, it seems, is to preserve the records for future researchers. It would seem the best place to store the records is in the place you would search fifty or one hundred years from now.

Coming Events

November 5, 2014

Come hear Troy Poteete, Director of the National Trail of Tears Association and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice. This Legacies & Lunch is co-hosted by the Clinton School for Public Service and sponsored by Arkansas Humanities Council. It will be at the [CALS](#) Ron Robinson Theater, 100 River Market Ave. 12:00 p.m.

November 7-8, 2014

Join experts from Ancestry and the Oklahoma Historical Society for Ancestry Day in Oklahoma. Registration is only \$40. Space is limited, [register today](#).

November 10, 2014

The Butler Center offers a beginner's genealogy class the second Monday of every month 3:00 to 5 p.m., taught by Rhonda Stewart, the [Butler Center's](#) local history and genealogy expert. For more information call the Butler Center at 501-320-5700.

November 13, 2014

[Central Arkansas Genealogy and Historical Society](#) meets at 6:00 pm at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Contact Jan Davenport jhdavenport39@gmail.com for more information.

November 15, 2014

Walks through history at Murfreesboro, Arkansas. See page 14 for the details.

Coming Events continued

November 24, 2014

Heritage Seekers meet at 7:00 pm at the Laman Library, 2801 N. Orange, North Little Rock. The presentation is “So You Want To Be a Cherokee” (Indian Research) by Russell Baker, retired Arkansas History Commission Archivist.

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.

March 14, 2015

The 10th Annual **Genealogy For You Seminar** is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library at 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas. Make your plans to come to this all Virginia Research Day featuring Barbara Vines Little.

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.

Coming Events continued

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 December 1, 2014.

June 11-13, 2015

Cumberland Gap 5th annual Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Day to be held in Cumberland Gap, TN (Very rich historical area). Street festival, live music, vendors, speakers, genealogy clubs, dna groups, and authors. Three counties, three states, one event. For more information go to <http://genealogyjamboree.us>.

October 2-3, 2015

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference will feature Josh Taylor. The location is to be announced. Watch our website for the details. www.agsgenealogy.org

The Scan Plan from NARA

The following exciting announcement is from <http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=5717>

The National Archives' Strategic Plan includes a simple, but audacious initiative: to digitize our analog records and make them available for online public access. We have over 12 billion pages of records, so yes, this is our moon shot.

To achieve this goal, we know we need to think in radically new ways about our processes, and we have started by creating a [new digitization strategy](#). From the time we published our 2008 digitization strategy through to-day, we have scanned over 230 million objects. This is a huge number, but we have a long road ahead. Our new strategy pushes us further.

We know we cannot do all of this by ourselves. We will continue to collaborate and build on efforts with private and public organizations to digitize records, as well as branch out to citizen archivists, other federal agencies and institutions worldwide. We will develop clear processes and technologies to support a workflow from staff digitization efforts, as well as ensure that records arriving at NARA are accompanied by standardized metadata, and make them available online in a shorter period of time.

We will set measures and track progress for each of these approaches, because we believe we can make digital access happen and we will hold ourselves accountable for doing so. Take a look at the full strategy and tell us what else we need to know: digitization@nara.gov.

October 10 Was Electronic Records Day

I was not aware that October 10 was Electronic Records Day until I read an article on Upfront with NGS recently. My planner showed that October 16 was National Boss' Day, but no mention of Electronics Records Day. There was not a section in the greeting card display at Target either. I am being somewhat facetious. Now that we know, we can explore the topic.

I had already decided to transition to digital records, where possible. I like the idea of having all my data with me, easy to find, easy to back up, and easy to share. Digital records have advantages over paper records and the opposite is also true. In one respect, data is data. On the other hand, an original paper document is often more than just data. I believe the digital record cannot always fully communicate what the paper does. A digital copy of an original paper record should be created regardless of any shortcomings.

How should we think about our electronic records? What is required to preserve them? You would be mistaken to think this article will completely educate you in this area. Since archivists are an integral part of our genealogy community, I expect each of you have interacted with one or more of them. Our son has a graduate degree in History and Archiving, so I have a personal "window" into the field. Electronic records management is an ever changing discipline. Books are outdated before they are printed. The rules today are different than the rules of yesterday. The best this article can do is expose you to the field.

If you are beginning your genealogy life, electronic records will become more and more important. I cannot imagine that any of us can ignore the need for education about the use and retention of our electronic records. It is not necessary to become a professional archivist. However, realize that you ARE an archivist if you are a genealogist. Please keep in mind my #1 rule: "Keep it fun!"

I recommend that you read the [Upfront with NGS article](#) on their website. From there you can "travel" as far as your heart desires. For those of you who do not have the time or inclination to take that trip, I am including the following article from the [Society of American Archivists](#). Go forth and archive!

October 10 Was Electronic Records Day *continued*

10 reasons why electronic records need special attention

In recognition of Electronic Records Day 2013, here is a list of reasons why everyone should be thinking more about electronic records.

1. Managing electronic records is like caring for a perpetual toddler: they need regular attention and care in order to remain accessible.
2. Electronic records can become unreadable very quickly. While records on paper can sometimes be read after thousands of years, digital files can be virtually inaccessible after just a few.
3. Scanning paper records is not the end of the preservation process: it is the beginning. Careful planning for ongoing management expenses must be involved as well.
4. There are no permanent storage media. Hard drives, CDs, Magnetic tape or any other storage formats will need to be tested and replaced on a regular schedule. Proactive management is required to avoid catastrophic loss of records.
5. The lack of a “physical” presence can make it very easy to lose track of electronic records. Special care must be taken to ensure they remain in controlled custody and do not get lost in masses of other data.
6. It can be easy to create copies of electronic records and share them with others, but this can raise concerns about the authenticity of those records. Extra security precautions are needed to ensure e-records are not altered inappropriately.
7. The best time to plan for electronic records preservation is when they are created. Don’t wait until software is being replaced or a project is ending to think about how records are going to be preserved.
8. No one system you buy will solve all your e-records problems. Despite what vendors say, there’s no magic bullet that will manage and preserve your e-records for you.

October 10 Was Electronic Records Day *continued*

9. Electronic records can help ensure the rights of the public through greater accessibility than ever before, but only if creators, managers and users all recognize their importance and contribute resources to their preservation.

10. While they may seem commonplace now, electronic records will form the backbone of the historical record for researchers of the future.

Remember, archivists are here to help you tackle these difficult problems. Contact your state, local or college archives to find out what they are working towards and what they need in order to make sure that electronic records remain accessible for generations to come!

A Little-Known Government Genealogy Service

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

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files.

Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>.

The documents typically include immigration information, often (but not always) including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

Saving Your Family History Securely in the Cloud

This article is from FamilySearch.org August 25, 2014 by [Karen Hanna](#).

Scott Allen from the [Utah Education Network](#), recently took his audience at the 2014 BYU Family History Conference into the mysterious realms of the “Cloud” and explained what that means. Technically, the [Wikipedia defines the cloud](#) as a “model of networked enterprise storage where data is stored not only in the user’s computer, but in virtualized pools of storage which are generally hosted by third parties, too.”

Allen explained that we have pictures or information that we want to keep on our home computers or devices, but in case of fire or other disasters, we want to be able to keep them safe. Pre-Cloud users kept copies of pictures and information on CDs or DVDs and hard drives in bank vaults or other safe storage. They also gave copies to others and sent discs or memory sticks to interested parties. When we put our data into cloud storage, though, we keep the original information at our home, and store the data in a format that can be used by others in facilities in different places in the world. Now, everyone can have access to this data, with permission, in a much easier way.

The Cloud can also be downloaded to all the mobile devices that a person owns, like iPhone, Android, iPad, not just a computer. And if information is put on the computer, all devices will be synced, so the information can be taken wherever the genealogist goes.

Allen listed several other advantages to Cloud storage online: 1) no cost for storage facilities; 2) automatic backup in case of problems; 3) retrieval from anywhere; and 4) information easily shared.

Some disadvantages exist: 1) retrieval not as fast as local storage; 2) infections with malware or viruses can occur like any download; 3) encryption may not be done as it is transferred to the cloud (Allen said that more and more places are encrypted now so this is no longer such a problem); 4) no control over hardware or network where your information is stored. If there is a problem with the network, information may not be able to be stored or retrieved. According to Allen, however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

Saving Your Family History Securely in the Cloud *continued*

Some of the free cloud websites include: Dropbox - www.dropbox.com; Google Drive drive.google.com; Amazon Cloud Drive www.amazon.com/cloudrive; iCloud www.icloud.com (Apple)

Many other cloud storage websites, both free and paid, are out there. Check genealogical websites or genealogy conferences for information about the preferred sites of other people. Non-Cloud storage also exists in <http://pogoplus.com/devices> and <http://labs.bittorrent.com/experiments/sync.html> and elsewhere. Apps are also available or will be available for syncing or editing the material on the sites.

Many choices are out there besides the Cloud sites listed above, or storage in bank vaults and on disks and memory sticks where software becomes outdated too quickly and has to be done over and over again to keep up with technology. For genealogists the Cloud is a new and different way to share and keep material safe.

Editor's note:

PLEASE read the rules of any cloud storage site before you agree to them . PLEASE! PLEASE!

I am guilty of giving a cursory glance to the rules of a service in many cases. Please do NOT do this with cloud storage. There are some sites that require you to give them the rights over your content. Know what the site requires before proceeding. Can you tell how important I think this is?

I found that the pogoplus.com link did not work for me and the labs.bittorrent.com link redirected to the link used.

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems

I usually listen to a podcast while using the elliptical machine at the gym. (Yes, I do go to the gym) I recently listened to a Genealogy Gems podcast and plan to try another. If you listen at the gym, while working in the garden, or wherever and you need a change from "What You Missed in History Class" you could give her a listen.

The following is from <http://lisalouisecooke.com/bio/>

Lisa Louise Cooke is the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is Producer and Host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular online genealogy audio show available at www.GenealogyGems.com, in iTunes, and through the Genealogy Gems app, and free toolbar. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists in 75 countries around the world, and recently celebrated 1.5 million downloads!

Lisa is the author of a variety of multi-media materials including the Genealogy Gems Premium website subscription, and four books: Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse, How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers, The Genealogist's Google Toolbox, and Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies, and the video series Google Earth for Genealogy.

I have listened to only one podcast, so I have not formed an opinion yet.

As some of you are aware, the Allen County Public Library has an electronic newsletter named "Genealogy Gems." Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems is not associated with the Library's Genealogy Gems. Just to be clear.

Walks Through History

The "Walks Through History" program is a series of monthly outdoor walking tours that seeks to familiarize people who live and work in communities outside of central Arkansas with the historic structures and sites around them. Presented by the [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#), an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the tours begin at 11 a.m., unless otherwise noted, on Saturdays, and last between one and two hours. An AHPP staff historian leads the tour, delivering a brief lecture about the properties visited and their history.

The November 15, 2014 tour is of the Murfreesboro Courthouse Square.

Co-sponsored by the Pike County Archives & History Society.

Meet at the Pike County Archives & History Society at 112 N. Washington, Suite B, in Murfreesboro. Located near the Little Missouri River, Murfreesboro's rich soil was ideal for growing crops and attracted settlers to the area. In 1906 John Wesley Huddleston found the first diamonds near Murfreesboro, initiating an economic boom. Today, Crater of Diamonds State Park, the world's only diamond-producing site open to the public, is about two miles southeast of the Murfreesboro square.

Irish Archives Resource Goes Online

Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for the following

Irish Archives Resource, abbreviated as "IAR," is a portal that recently has been greatly expanded. It links together hundreds of unique archival collections and 34 archive services in Ireland north and south. Ireland's first archive web portal, Irish Archives Resource (IAR), includes contribution from Trinity College Dublin's Manuscripts and Archives Research Department, RTÉ Stills Library, National Museum of Ireland Archives, University College Cork Archives, Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, and the archives of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. It does not hold any images of archives or records. Instead, it provides a means to search archival descriptions from various contributing institutions.

The archive is not specifically a genealogy resource. Instead, it contains all sorts of archival descriptions, many of which will prove to be useful resources to genealogists, historians, social scientists, film historians, Irish citizens, Irish emigrants and their descendants, and to many others. It should appeal to anyone interested in accessing Ireland's archival heritage.

Beginning as a pilot project in 2008, as a result of a joint initiative of the Heritage Council and Archives and Records Association, Ireland, the IAR is an all-Ireland portal containing collections from Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and National Archives of Ireland.

The IAR is currently funded by the Heritage Council, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland. The portal is hosted by University College Dublin's School of History and Archives. With adequate funding, it aims to expand the current number of contributing archive services from 34 to up to 70.

The Irish Archives Resource may be found at <http://www.iar.ie..>

Elephind: A Digital Newspaper Collections Search Engine

Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for this interesting article.

Elephind is a great service that searches online digital newspaper collections. Best of all, it is available free of charge.

Elephind.com is a search engine that operates much like Google, Bing, and other search engines. The one thing that is different with Elephind is that it searches only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search for free across many newspaper sites simultaneously rather than having to visit each collection's web site separately.

At this time Elephind has indexed 2,677 newspaper titles containing more than two and a half million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to August 2013. The Elephind search engine has indexed 141,628,238 items from 2,677 newspaper titles. These include such well known sites as Chronicling America (the U.S.'s Library of Congress) and Trove (National Library of Australia), as well as smaller collections like Door County Library in Wisconsin. Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines, but they are searchable from Elephind.com. A list of available newspaper collections that have been indexed so far is available at <http://goo.gl/VRQN5L>.

Additional newspaper collections are added to Elephind's indexes frequently.

I found that Elephind operates in much the same manner as many other search engines. If you already know how to search for things in Google, Bing, Yahoo, or elsewhere, you already know how to use Elephind. In fact, there are two search methods available on Elephind:

1. When you first visit the site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you are greeted with a very simple search screen containing one data entry box. You can search for words or phrases in much the same way as you do on Google although not all of Google's sophisticated Boolean search terms are available on Elephind. You can find tips for using the search box at <http://goo.gl/3T6JuH>.

Elephind: A Digital Newspaper Collections Search Engine *continued*

2. When visiting this same site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you will also see a highlighted link for “Advanced Search.” When you click on that, a more sophisticated search form appears, allowing you to narrow the search to any combination of specific newspaper titles, country, or a range of dates.

I did a search for my own last name between the years 1811 and 1890 in the United States. It returned far too many “hits” for me to search through; so, I started narrowing the search by specifying first names and cities or towns of interest. I was soon looking at information of interest.

I was impressed with the clarity of the newspaper pages I was able to view; but, of course, that is under the control of the individual newspaper collection. Elephind does not host the images on its own web site. Instead, it merely links to newspapers found on a wide variety of servers in a number of different countries from around the world.

Elephind.com is a great tool for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic, digitized newspaper archives from around the globe. Will Elephind locate newspaper articles about your ancestors? There is no way to tell in advance. You need to try it for a while to see. It is a free resource, so why not try it to see for yourself?

Elephind may be found at <http://www.elephind.com>.

Indiana to Digitize 13 Million Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates

Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for the following notice.

The Indiana Commission on Public Records has approved a contract with Ancestry.com to digitize more than 13 million birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage records, Gov. Mike Pence announced Thursday. The birth and death certificates date back to the early 1900s, according to a news release, and the state's marriage records are from 1958 through 2005.

The digitized versions of those records older than 75 years will start becoming available to Hoosiers in 2015, the release said, with completion expected by 2016.

This partnership saves the State of Indiana more than \$3.2 million—the cost to index, scan, and make accessible the materials, and would have taken the state more than a decade to complete. It also provides another mechanism to both access the records and preserve the remaining originals from excessive use and degradation, and provides an additional copy in case original copies are destroyed. The effort represents the largest online collection of state materials ever digitized, officials said.

The online records will eventually be available free through the State Archives but not initially. There is a three-year embargo so Ancestry.com can recoup its costs, the governor's office said. However, the State Archives will be able to provide public access to the records at its Indianapolis location once the records are digitized.

Editor's note: Those readers with Indiana ancestors will find this interesting, but I think this also points to a growing trend. On the surface, a partnership with a business appears to be a good way to accomplish the goal and save money for the taxpayers. Many times the downside of a method does not become apparent for a long time; years or even decades. Check with me in one hundred years.

Administrative Stuff

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

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