



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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Christmas is “a comin” and we will be shopping for that perfect gift. Is it going to be another tie or sweater? How about something “perfect?”

The Genealogy Gems Ezine No 129 issue struck a chord with me. Consider gifts with a family history theme this season! What a good idea. The article mentions wall hangings shaped like a tree. They have been all over social media. You can also google “tree family photo wall art.” You could convert some of your old movies to DVD. That may be a bit pricey, but talk about unique. I don’t know anyone who does not enjoy seeing themselves in a movie as a small child or teenager. There is always a family history book of photos and stories. You can put the book together yourself or use an online services like Snapfish, Picasa or one of the others.

If you are really creative, unlike me, you can likely think of many other clever ways to give the “gift that keeps on giving.” Let me conclude by quoting the last paragraph of their piece.

Whatever you decide to do in the way of family history-related gifts, if appropriate, make multiple copies and share them. You know everyone will want one, and besides, distributing multiple copies helps ensure those home movies, family stories and precious heritage photos won’t be lost, because as we have been told many times - Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe (LOCKSS)!

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 –

The Texarkana Gazette carried an AP article November 27, 2014 on page 5C titled “Genealogy site adds 3.2M American Indian Records.” Ancestry.com has partnered with the Oklahoma Historical Society in this effort. The new records are scheduled to be available Monday, December 1. To read the complete article you must have a Gazette subscription.

RootsMagic 7 has now been released. One feature in this new version is automatic hinting from both FamilySearch and MyHeritage. The price is \$29.95, or current users can upgrade for \$19.95. You can read about the software on <http://RootsMagic.com>.

Heredis has a “Christmas 50% off” offer of \$19.95 for Heredis 2014 through January 4, 2015. There link is <http://www.heredis.com>.

New Chromebook buyers can get 1TB of Google Drive storage for two years, almost \$240 in value, absolutely free. The 1TB comes with the purchase of a new, eligible Chromebook. Click this [LINK](#) for the details.

FamilySearch International has announced a new audio file upload feature in FamilySearch Family Tree. You can read the announcement by clicking this [LINK](#). You might want to read [Ancestry Insider’s](#) post about this announcement as well.

Coming Events

December 13, 2014

[Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#)'s Walks Through History will be the Taylor House and Cemetery located off Hwy. 138 near Winchester in Drew County. It will be co-sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the Drew County Historical Society.

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 web-site for hotel information. Conference registration is now open with [Early Bird pricing](#) through March.

June 5 & 6, 2015

The Searcy County Historical Society is sponsoring the 26th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, *What Are You Doing With Your Civil War Information?* More information is available at: www.ancestorfair.us

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>.

July 31- August 2, 2015

The Sheldon Family Association will gather for the 76th Annual Meeting and Reunion July 31- August 2 2015 at LaQuinta in Sacramento CA. Host Betty Knopf will arrange lectures about Sheldon history and trips to Sheldon sites. Information from the 121,000 descendant database will be available. See our web site Sheldonfamilyv2.org.

Coming Events continued

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

May 4-7, 2016

The NGS 2016 Family History Conference will be held 4-7 May 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.

Should Photographing Public Records be Free?

The following is republished from [UPFRONT WITH NGS](#)

The genesis for this post was a question posted in a Facebook group back in September (unfortunately, I didn't happen to note which one and try as I might, I cannot re-find the original post. If you participated in this thread or recognize the post, please drop a comment and I'll add in a link).

It started when Allison Graves posted a link to [Alabama state attorney: Photographing public records for free is 'stealing'](#) which starts out by stating ...

In what would appear to be a case of government run amuck, at least two state agencies in Alabama won't let people take pictures of public records, with an attorney for one equating the idea with stealing.

Allison queried Judy G Russell ([The Legal Genealogist](#)) and that got the comment ball rolling.

I, for one, don't necessarily expect records, even public records, to necessarily be free - especially given that there are real costs to preserving said documents. In North Carolina, many records are made available "at cost" and the Attorney General's Office has a nifty publication, [Guide to Open Government and Public Records](#) where it is stated, page 2 "Any fee charged must not exceed the actual cost of searching for and making copies. No fees may be charged for inspecting public records." Therefore, in NC, if you inspect a public record, this seems to suggest there is no cost for you to photograph such a record. This document goes on to say, page 5 ...

Should Photographing Public Records be Free? *continued*

For uncertified copies, agencies may not charge fees that are higher than the actual cost of making the copy. “Actual cost” is defined as “direct, chargeable costs related to the reproduction of a public record as determined by generally accepted accounting principles.” The law does not give examples of actual costs but it does say that actual cost may not include costs the agency would have incurred if the copy request had not been made. That means that under most circumstances, fees may not include the labor costs of the agency employees who make the copies. However, if making the copies involves extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, the agency may charge a special service fee in addition to actual duplication costs.

This definitely holds true for the [State Archives of North Carolina](#) where you pay \$.10 or more (dependent on format of copy - paper copy, digital copy, etc) for any copy made by them and there is no cost for you to photograph records. In fact, you are required to photograph any “bound” volumes as they are not available to be copied (though one may request digital reproductions for a fee).

That said, and because I have enjoyed this aspect of doing research in government entities in NC, if the budget of the community already encompasses those costs, then I, as a taxpayer, think I can have some expectation to be able to photograph such for free. Though, that assumes I can directly access the desired records with no assistance. If assistance is needed, then it does seem reasonable that a fee might be involved.

Back to the Facebook post - some comments told of not being able to take pictures of public records in WV or in county courthouses in New York State and that the Hawaii State Archives charges a fee if you want to photograph documents in their collection. I have not verified any of these, and, as always, check the rules and regulations of any archives facility that you visit.

Should Photographing Public Records be Free? *continued*

Feel that access to public documents in your community is too restrictive? It's not too early to start planning to participate in [Sunshine Week, March 15-21, 2015](#).

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My British Isle Origins: Where and How Do I Cross the Pond?

The National Genealogical Society proudly announces a strategic partnership with Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd of the UK to present My British Isles Origins: Where and How Do I Cross the Pond? This four-week online learning course begins 15 January 2015 and is designed to show genealogists with British ancestry how to “leap the pond” and discover their roots in the British Isles.

My British Isles Origins: Where and How Do I Cross the Pond? offers students a mixture of history, population study, sources, and research strategies. Its primary objectives are to present practical guidance for launching research into the British origins of immigrant ancestors and to offer help on building contextual knowledge of migration patterns and history, at national and local levels. [Click here](#) to access the course syllabus.

NGS Members Discount: Members registering through the [NGS member's only](#) website, receive a 15% discount. This brings the cost of the course to \$55.25.

The presenter is Sherry Irvine, BA (History), MSc, CG, of Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada. Sherry, a favorite lecturer across the United States, is an established teacher and lecturer of family history with over twenty-five years of experience. Further biographical information is available [here](#) or at Pharos <http://www.pharostutors.com/>.

How I learned what to do with undocumented family trees

Now here is some good advice from [Midwestern Microhistory: a Genealogy Blog!](#)

Back in the 20th century, my wife's father's mother's family spent a lot of time (and some money on a professional genealogist in North Carolina) trying to find the ancestors of her great-great grandmother Jennie (Cochran) Boren.

They got nowhere; my daughter and I got nowhere too -- until she came across a family tree on Rootsweb's WorldConnect pages, a more static predecessor of today's Ancestry trees. The tree contained names and dates -- no sources. But it approached Jennie from the "other side," that is, her birth family.

Did we sneer at this tree -- unsourced as it was, and connected to an address whose owner never responded to our inquiries? We did not.

But we didn't believe it and take its statements as gospel, either -- we had been around long enough not to do that either.

We did the same as reasonable people do with family stories they heard in person -- checked the claims out against the available records. Was Jennie found in census records with her claimed parents? Were they the ages claimed? What about the siblings and aunts and uncles? Could we find quality sources, information, and evidence that confirmed or denied the claims in the tree?

We did. There's more work to be done on this line but without this rather disreputable-seeming lead, we might still be looking for Jennie (AKA Jane E.).

How I learned what to do with undocumented family trees *continued*

Wise genealogists use all available clues. Dogmatic rejection of apparently low-quality sources is no more sensible than dogmatic acceptance of them. Don't be a source snob.

Posted by Harold Henderson November 17, 2014 on the Midwestern Microhistory Blog.

The Confederates Who Moved to Brazil

The following comes from an article in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of November 5, 2014.

Many citizens of the Confederacy disappeared from public records at the end of the Civil War or soon thereafter. Of course, record keeping was spotty at best in the turmoil that followed the defeat of the Confederacy. If you can't find your relatives during that time, you might be tempted to say, "Oh well, he (or she) probably died in the war." Don't be so sure.

Americana is a small city about 100 miles from São Paulo, Brazil's largest city. The town was settled by disgruntled American Confederates after their side lost the Civil War. Descendants of the original settlers still live there today, and most of them still speak English with a strong southern drawl.

After the Civil War, many families from the old South were left landless and destitute. They probably hated living under a conquering army of Yankees. Brazilian emperor Dom Pedro II realized this group of disenfranchised Americans could be a solution to one of his problems: how to develop the sparsely-settled areas of his country. He was especially interested in developing the cultivation of cotton, a crop well-known to the former Confederates. He provided incentives to people who knew how to raise cotton, offering land at twenty-two cents an acre with four years credit and passage to Brazil for thirty Yankee dollars. Each family was encouraged to bring a tent, light-weight furniture, farming supplies and seeds, and provisions to last six months.

The editor's comments: This piece I found in Dick Eastman's Newsletter reminds me of just how much I don't know. I have a weakness; I want to know it all. I have a problem; I cannot know it all. We must rely on sound research methods and sometimes luck. You can read the full article by following this [LINK](#). The article provides links to other resources dealing with this subject.

WinterTech in Fort Wayne

I found the following in Genealogy Gems Ezine which I receive by email from the [Allen County Public Library](#) in Fort Wayne Indiana.

Whether it's driven by all the data and documents we collected during a summer of research and reunions, or the falling temperatures, falling leaves, and falling snow, it seems like many things entice us to spend more time indoors this time of year. And that means it must be time for The Genealogy Center to offer its series of WinterTech programs. The Genealogy Center has a great series planned this wintery season. We start off with "Basics of Adobe Elements," on Monday, November 3, 2014, and Monday, November 10, 2014, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Computer Classroom at the Main Library. This two-part class, conducted by Kay Spears, will be devoted to learning the basics of using Adobe Elements. In it you will discover how to restore images of old photographs using techniques similar to those in Adobe Photoshop. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of their own family photographs on a USB ("flash") drive for hands-on instruction in applying what they have learned to their personal photos. Space is limited. Email Genealogy@ACPL.Info or call 260-421-1225 to register for these free events. Copies of photos must be on a USB ("flash") drive.

WinterTech will continue on December 10, 2014, with "Google It! Using Google Maps, Google Earth and More" from 3 to 4 p.m., with John Beatty and Dawne Slater-Putt. On January 14, 2015, 3 to 4 p.m., Aaron Smith and Melissa Tennant will conduct a "Catalog Tour," and Delia Bourne will wrap up the series on February 11, 2015, 3 to 4 p.m., with "Linkpendium & Mocavo: Using Free Genealogy-Specific Search Engines." Mark your calendar to take advantage of these classes!

I realize most of our readers do not live in Fort Wayne, however their WinterTech schedule is something you might want to mention to your local library or society. Please inform me of any local offerings similar to this so I might mention them in our Ezine.

Biggest Digitization of Irish Genealogy Records to Begin

The following is a December 1, 2014 article in [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)

The National Library of Ireland is to digitise more than 400,000 images of Catholic parish register microfilms and publish them online for free. In what is being described as the most significant ever digitisation project for Irish genealogy, the microfilms will be available online for free from the National Library of Ireland (NLI) by the summer of 2015.

The records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover 1,091 parishes throughout the island of Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

“This is the most ambitious digitisation project in the history of the NLI, and our most significant ever genealogy project,” said Colette O’Flaherty, head of special collections at the NLI.

“We believe it will be of huge assistance to those who wish to research their family history. At this stage, we have converted the microfilm reels on which the registers are recorded into approximately 390,000 digital images.

“We will be making all these images available, for free, on a dedicated website, which will be launched in summer 2015.”

What a great resource to learn about since so many of us have Irish ancestors.

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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