



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 10, No. 8, August, 2015

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George Mitchell, list manager

How are you evolving?

Ready to remove the “training” wheels? Ready to teach a class? Ready to volunteer in your local library or genealogy center? Ready to make a presentation at a local meeting?

If you have been reading the Ezine for a while, you may have noticed that I encourage you to read directly from my sources. I have encouraged you to subscribe to Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter and others. Why would I do that?

This Ezine is suppose to email “the news of the Society and other items of interest to the genealogical world at large on a monthly basis.” I would equate “items of interest” to things that are “good” for us and help us grow.

The AGS website states “The purpose of the society is to promote family history research, to educate persons in genealogical research methods and the use of historical records, to publish articles pertaining to Arkansas ancestors, and to preserve and make accessible historical, genealogical, and biographical sources pertaining to Arkansas.” Our goal is to help you take off the training wheels, to prepare you to teach, to motivate you to serve.

I read this somewhere: “Today is the first day of the rest of your life.” Let’s go!

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 –

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? Airs Sunday, August 9 at 10/9c. It features J. K. Rowling. Don't miss this one.

How about some help with your photos? There is a good article on the [Ancestry Blog](#) contributed by Denise May Levenick, The [Family Curator](#). I recommend that you take a look at both.

The Arkansas Prior Birth Index is finally complete after fifteen years of diligent work by volunteers of the Arkansas Genealogical Society. This is an excellent resource for finding birth certificates which were issued for pre-1914 births. You can print an order form from the [AGS website](#) to order a copy. There is an excellent article by Susan G. Boyle about this resource in the upcoming issue of the Arkansas Family Historian.

Coming Events

August 8, 2015

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association will hold their annual Seminar at the Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Shreveport, LA. See their [website](#) for the details.

August 15, 2015

Arkansas Historic Preservation Project's Walks Thru History is scheduled at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Downtown Bradford, intersection of W. Main and W. Second, Bradford, Arkansas.

August 16, 2015

Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas, August meeting will be 2:00 p.m. in the Round Room in the Jonesboro Library in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

August 18-22, 2015

The National Genealogical Society research trip to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be under the guidance of research consultants Janet A. Alpert, FNGS, and Patricia Walls Stamm, CGSM, CGLSM. For more information visit http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/research_trips.

August 24, 2015

Heritage Seekers meets at 6:30 in the Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanon, Little Rock. Susan Young with the Shiloh Museum, Springdale will present The Huntsville Massacre. [note this is a change of location]

Coming Events continued

August 25, 2015

Steve Perdue, Head of the Genealogy and Local History department of the Saline County Library in Benton, will teach a basic class on beginning your genealogy and family history research. See page 10 for more information.

September 11-12, 2015

The Ozarks Genealogical Society, Springfield, Missouri Fall Conference's featured speaker will be Lisa Louise Cooke. See page 8 & 9 for more information and the link.

October 2-3, 2015

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference will be at the Wyndham, North Little Rock. See page 6 & 7 and our website for the details. You can print a registration form on the AGS website. www.agsgenealogy.org

October 18-28, 2015

11th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise hosted by [Heritage Books, Inc.](http://HeritageBooks.com), in consultation with Wholly Genes, Inc. For more information please click the link above.

November 1-6, 2015

NGS Guided Research Trip to Washington, D.C. under the guidance of Patricia Walls Stamm, CGsm, CGLsm, Craig Roberts Scott, CG, FUGA, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS, FVGS. This event is SOLD OUT. For more information, or to be put on a waiting list for the trip, visit http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences_events/research_tips/dc_research_trip.

Coming Events continued

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. Hotel reservations are now open at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/accommodations>.

June 12–17, 2016

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University Library, week-long event will be in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration will be open at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (10:00 a.m. Central) on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. [Click here](#) to go to their website.

August 31– September 3, 2016

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be held in Springfield, Illinois. See www.fgs.org for the details.

Arkansas Genealogical Society 2015 Fall Conference

**Arkansas Genealogical Society
2015 Fall Conference**



Featuring

Paula Stuart-Warren

October 2-3, 2015

Wyndham Hotel

#2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-371-9000

Please visit the [AGS website](#) to get a registration form

Register by September 10th to be guaranteed a syllabus

For hotel reservations, call the Wyndham directly at 501-371-9000 or toll-free at 866-657-4458.

Mention the Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference to receive the \$94.95 rate

Arkansas Genealogical Society 2015 Fall Conference *continued*

Agenda

Start Time Friday, October 2, 2015 Schedule

- 5:00 PM Registration (Vendors Open 5:00-9:00)
- 6:00 PM Russell Baker - Malinda Had Three Husbands: Exploring Southern Native American Genealogical Research
- 7:00 PM Break
- 7:30 PM Tim Welch - Preserving Memories in the Digital Age

Start Time Saturday, October 3, 2015 Schedule

- 8:00 AM Registration (Vendors Open 8:00-3:00)
- 9:00 AM Paula Stuart-Warren - What Next? Developing Step-by-Step Research Plans (audience participation)
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:30 AM Paula Stuart-Warren - Original Manuscripts: Finding Aids Online and Off
- 11:30 AM Lunch
- 1:00 PM AGS Annual Meeting
- 1:30 PM Paula Stuart-Warren - The Farmer in the Dell -- and in Many U.S. Records
- 2:30 PM Break
- 3:00 PM Paula Stuart-Warren - Research Reports for Ourselves: More than a Research Log
- \$20 Friday Night Only; \$40 Saturday Only (includes a box lunch); \$55 Friday & Saturday (includes Saturday's box lunch)

Ozark Genealogical Society Fall Conference

“Be The Family Sherlock”

With Lisa Louise Cooke

September 11-12, 2015

At The University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center

333 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy.

Springfield, Missouri

Full Conference price includes Friday night session, Saturday sessions, lunch, Vendor Showcase, and electronic syllabus.

\$55 (\$50 for OGS members) \$60 after August 31st.

Friday Night only includes Vendor Showcase

\$30 (\$35 after August 31st)

Pay \$3.00 additional fee for printed syllabus.

Ozark Genealogical Society Fall Conference *continued*

Friday session begins at 7 p.m. Check-in at 6 p.m.

Saturday sessions begin at 8 a.m. Check-in at 7:45 a.m.

For more information [click here](#).

If you wish to have vendor space, call 417-865-4945 (daytime).

Beginning Genealogy Class

Saline County Library presents a Beginning Genealogy class

This is a basic class on beginning your genealogy and family history research. The genealogy and local history department of the Saline County Library will give you tips on how to begin your research and will also show you how to use the department's online databases. A basic knowledge of computers is required for this course. Laptops will be provided for this class. The class is limited to ten and will be held from 9:30 - 11:30 am. You must register for the class by calling the Benton library at (501) 778-4766 or the Bryant library at (501) 847-2166. You may also register online. The class will be taught by Steve Perdue , Head of the Genealogy and Local History department of the Saline County Library in Benton. The class will be held at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton.

Please visit the Saline County Library Website at <http://salinecountylibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=21024&lib=>

Perry County Historical Society Research Library

For those of you who have ancestors from Missouri, there is a Genealogical Research Library & Archive Center located at

108 S Progress Drive, 2nd Floor

Perryville, MO. 63775

Phone: 573-768-2470

Website: www.perrycountyhistoricalsociety.org

Email: percohistsoc@yahoo.com

I cannot offer an opinion of this resource since I have not visited. If you have a need and do visit the Perryville Library, please feel free to offer your opinion for the benefit of our other readers.

Notice this is Perryville, MISSOURI, not Arkansas.

Content and Context are King

The following article is republished from the June 30, 2015, issue of Genealogy Gems, of the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center. It was written by Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF. Curt is the Genealogy Center Manager for the library.

I encourage you to visit their [WEBSITE](#). You can subscribe to Genealogy Gems while you are there.

I recently returned from the 2015 Annual Conference of the American Library Association (ALA), and as one might guess there was much to see and do when nearly twenty-two thousand librarians and informational professionals get together. As I have been in the past, I again was struck with the amazing numbers of resources libraries and archives have to offer family historians, and the significant commitments so many institutions undertake to preserve local and family history treasures and make those items discoverable for us.

More than occasionally I am also struck by how infrequently many family historians take full advantage of all the resources available to assist them in researching their heritage and in discovering their family stories. There are too many individuals who believe that if something is not online at Ancestry.com it doesn't exist. Undoubtedly, Ancestry.com is a phenomenal collection of records and images. Certainly kudos to their marketing folks for making researching family history synonymous with Ancestry.com for many individuals. However, the idea of any one website or even any collection of information aggregators having everything is simply dreaming at this point. (Who knows what technology will enable us to do in the future.) What you and I need as family historians is an appreciation for the process of finding the largest amount of available data and a commitment to engage such a process.

Appreciating two words--content and context--can have an enormous impact on our genealogical research. Having the most amount of information possible about an ancestor and corresponding ancestral family--content--will prevent us from stumbling into many brick walls; and trying to research our family lines in the

Content and Context are King *continued*

most robust contexts possible will drive us to continually exploring for new content. And of course, an ongoing commitment to lifelong learning in the genealogy space will help us increasingly appreciate content and context.

Scattered throughout the four days of the recent ALA conference were numerous presentations on local, state, and regional memory projects. It was exciting to see how these memory programs have grown-up since the early days of such projects decades ago. Long gone are the simple, tagged photographic collections. Though quite useful in their own right, today's memory projects have numerous additional layers of digital assets, including important historical monographs, letters and diaries, religious histories, maps, court records and documents, scrapbooks and oral histories. And nearly all of these projects continue to support active growth.

Individuals interested in family history must make seeking and accessing these largely free and tremendously important "memory" collections of local history assets part of their research routines. Both historically and contemporarily it is individuals who create, sustain, grow, and shape communities. The stories of their lives are interwoven in to the stories of the communities in which they lived. Actively seek to expand the content in which you are looking for your ancestors by engaging memory projects of all sorts. In doing this, you also will provide the best possible contexts in which to understand the lives of your ancestors--and that may open you up to more content possibilities. It is simply another part of the research cycle.

Two memory projects worthy of highlighting include "Wabash Valley Visions & Voices" and "Orlando Memory." "Wabash Valley Visions & Voices" defines itself as "a digital memory project dedicated to the documentation and the preservation of the region's history and heritage in print, pictures, and sound. As a collaborative effort involving the libraries, museums, cultural organizations and community groups, the

Content and Context are King *continued*

project . . . focuses on the Wabash Valley region in west central Indiana and east central Illinois.” Many material formats are included in this digital initiative, though, what makes this particular project of great consequence are the number of participating organization. More than thirty-five different organizations are participating in this collaborative project of preserving and sharing, from museums and historical societies to public library and local governments.

Orange County (FL) and Orlando may be known to many as Disney central; however, in the family and local history research worlds, they should also be known for the truly outstanding “Orlando Memory” project. In the description, the project is identified as a “community-based, digital collection of local heritage and traditions.” Not only are the project’s current resources of interest to family historians, as a community-based project, area resident’s photographs, videos, and memories are welcome and can be easily loaded onto the site after engaging in a free registration process. Amazing content and context can be found at OrlandoMemory.info.

Developing a strategy for using memory projects is as easy as finding them. The following three steps are a good start.

**Explore public library websites in areas of geographic interest.

**Explore state library websites in areas of geographic interest.

**Explore state historical society websites in areas of geographic interest.

In addition to memory projects, a healthy number of ALA programs discussed best practices for scanning and creating metadata for local scrapbooks, obituary files, and local historical publications, especially old newspapers. Just think, libraries of all types and sizes are working with diligence to provide increasing amounts of local historical records for researchers like you and me. Consequential pieces of the content they are making accessible are not readily available through the commercial information aggregators in

Content and Context are King *continued*

the genealogy space. Our libraries are working hard through local and state funded projects as well as through The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) of the Library of Congress to digitally preserve and make accessible millions of pages of newspaper--newspapers that chronicle the lives and times of our ancestors, their families, and their communities.

I continue to tell all who will listen that these truly are the best of times for genealogists. We can take fuller advantage of these best of times by persistently looking for more content and fuller contexts.

Arkansas History Commission Press Release

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives and the North Little Rock History Commission will be hosting a symposium on Saturday, August 29, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center, 401 West Pershing Boulevard, North Little Rock.

The theme of the symposium, “The Great War: Service on All Fronts,” will feature presenters Bryan McGraw, Access Coordinator at the National Archives, St. Louis & Midwest region, Sandra Taylor Smith, Director of the North Little Rock History Commission, Cary Bradburn, NLR History Commission Historian, author Elizabeth Hill, and Arkansas History Commission Archival Assistant Amanda L. Paige.

Topics will include, The Personnel Records at the National Archives in St. Louis, Fort Roots and Camp Pike in World War I, Arkansas’s Women and the Great War, and World War I Records at the Arkansas History Commission.

The event will also feature a scanning booth. Participants are invited to bring in material pertaining to Arkansas during World War I for digitization. An AHC archivist will scan and save to CDs copies of scanned material for the participants, who will be asked to share the digital copies with the Arkansas History Commission and North Little Rock History Commission for research, exhibits and publication.

The symposium is free and lunch will be provided. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Registration is limited. The deadline for registration will be Monday, August 24, so be sure to register soon. Check-in for registration will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Arkansas History Commission Press Release *continued*

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, located in Little Rock, is the official state archives of Arkansas and maintains the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world. The North Little Rock History Commission's mission is to collect, keep, and care for materials pertaining to the history of North Little Rock.

For more information about the symposium or to register, please call 501-682-6900 or email history.commission@arkansas.gov.

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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