



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 10, No. 12, December, 2015

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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 –

New FamilySearch Collections Update: November 9, 2015. Please follow this link, [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#), to the article which has many links to the records on FamilySearch.

I really enjoy traveling and I really enjoy being a “history hunter.” I suspect many of you are like me in that respect and combine both activities. As it turns out, genealogy tourism is a growing industry. Genealogy tourism generates revenue for business and states. Family Tree Magazine has a very good article about the subject. Please follow this link to read about it.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/genealogy-insider-genealogy-tourism>

The Troy Irish Genealogy Website has added death notices appearing in Troy, NY Newspapers 1797 - 1860. Visit the [Troy Irish Genealogy Society](#) website to see these records.

Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for the following: What is [MemoryStoria](#)? MemoryStoria allows you to record your life stories with help from your friends and family, children and grandchildren. MemoryStoria is completely free to use and all your stories are completely private. MemoryStoria brings together your stories into a digital book with the highlights of your life, which can be passed on to future generations. You have full control of the privacy of your stories and if you wish you can share the book with your loved ones.

Coming Events

December 4, 2015

Arkansas Historic Preservation Project *Sandwiching in History* (noon) will be the Mandlebaum-Pfeifer House, 908 So. Scott Street, Little Rock at noon. Rachels@arkansasheritage.org or info@arkansaspreservation.org for additional information.

December 5, 2015

From 10 - 1, at the Garland County Library's Local Author Book Fair, you can meet local award-winning authors, get signed books, ask questions about their nonfiction works, novels, poems, short stories, memoirs. Please visit with us (The Melting Pot Genealogical Society) at the GCHS table.

December 8, 2015

Book launch party for *Then & Now: Hot Springs, Arkansas* by Mike Blythe and *Boiling Out at the Springs: A History of Major League Spring Training at Hot Springs, Arkansas*, Revised Edition by Don Duren, 4 - 6, Rm. 201, Convention Center. The party will be a lot of fun, as well as a great chance to see these excellent books and perhaps get some Christmas gifts for your special people.

December 10, 2015

The Saline County Public Library (Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library) will present a *Tim Ernst Photographic Slide Show Program*. (Arkansas Wild photographer) from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. <http://salinecountylibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=20497&lib=>

December 12, 2015

Arkansas Historic Preservation Project *Walks Thru History* will be the Washington Street Historic District in Camden. ([Ouachita County Historical Society](#))

Coming Events continued

January 25, 2016

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club meets at the Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr., Little Rock at 6:30 p.m. The program will be *Cemetery Iconography* by Holly Hope of the [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#).

January 30, 2016

The Genealogical Society of Craighead County will conduct a *Beginning Genealogy Workshop* from 10–3 at the Jonesboro Public Library, 315 W. Oak Ave. Contact gscga@suddenlink.net for more information

March 12, 2016

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Society Spring Workshop with Lisa Louis Cooke will be at St Jude's Catholic Church Community Center, 4700 Palmetto Road, Benton, LA. See the details at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/calendar2016.htm>

March 19, 2016

Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library's 11th Annual Genealogy For Your Seminar with D. Joshua Taylor presenting. Registration is required and begins January 4, 2016. Call 501-778-4766 or visit www.salinecountylibrary.org to register.

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>.

Coming Events continued

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. Hotel Reservations are now open. You can go to <https://www.fgsconference.org/> for the details and links to make your reservation.

September 23-24, 2016

2016 STANDRIDGE NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 23-24, 2016, LaQuinta Inn, Bryant, AR. For additional information contact Russell P. Baker, 6525 Magnolia Dr. Mabelvale, AR 72103, gobgob3@mindspring.com

September 18–25, 2016

The 3rd Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise, hosted by Heritage Books, Inc. will depart from Galveston, Texas. Visit HeritageBooks.com.

Genealogy For You Seminar

From the Saline County Library website



Nationally Known Genealogist, D. Josh Taylor host of the PBS program Genealogy Road Show and who has appeared on the program Who Do You Think You Are will be the presenter for the 11th annual Saline County Library Genealogy and Local History Departments Genealogy For You Seminar on Saturday, March 19th, 2016. You must register online or by calling the Saline County Library at (501) 778-4766 in Benton. The event will be held at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, in Benton, Arkansas from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. Lunch will be on your own. Seating is limited. Registration begins January 4, 2016.

Help Preserve Our History

Arkansas Needs You! The Arkansas History Commission, which is the only state agency we have to preserve the history of our state, faces many challenges. The History Commission includes the **State Archives**—and it is through the State Archives that the heritage of our people is preserved.

It has never been easy for the Arkansas History Commission, and things have gotten worse in recent years due to staffing limitations, the costs incurred in managing two regional archives, and increased demands for digital records.

However, the History Commission cannot do all of this on its own. Because of a tiny staff and budget, there are limits to what can be done to preserve the history of Arkansas and its people.

For these and many more reasons, a new support group is being formed in order to help the AHC continue its work and make it even better. The purpose of this group will be to support the Arkansas History Commission and to work with them in preserving the heritage of our great state.

We are convening an organizational meeting to establish “Friends of the Arkansas History Commission and Archives.” We hope you will join us at the meeting to be held on **Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

We will meet in the board room of the History Commission, just behind the state capitol building in the Multi-Agency Complex.

If you cannot be present but would like to help out with the effort, please let us know.

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NGS Announces 2016 Family History Conference Program

The following was received by email from the NGS

ARLINGTON, VA, 20 NOVEMBER 2015—The National Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the release of its 2016 Family History Conference program. The program, which includes more than 170 lectures, is now available online at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/> and as a sixteen-page registration brochure, which can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/w40zSO>.

Nationally known speakers and subject matter experts will address a broad array of topics, including records for Florida and its neighboring states; migration into and out of the region; military records; state and federal records. Other topics will discuss genealogical research on African Americans and women; methodology; analysis and problem solving; and the use of technology, including genetics, mobile devices, and apps useful in genealogical research.

The conference will take place at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 4-7 May 2016. Registration opens on 1 December 2015 at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/register/>. A number of special events have limited seating, so register on 1 December, or as soon as possible thereafter, if you plan to attend these events.

Up-to-date information about the availability, amenities, and rates for conference hotels can be found at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/attend/accommodations/>.

Sign up for the NGS Conference Blog at <http://conferenceblog.ngsgenealogy.org> so you do not miss conference news or announcements.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia- based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

The Importance of State Archives

The following is from an article on the State Archivist Website.

State archives play a critical role in preserving the nation's history and the rights of its citizens. The dramatic growth in state government activity during the twentieth century was accompanied by an exponential surge in the production of permanent records. Government records face unprecedented threats and opportunities, and state archives are evolving to meet the challenge.

In doing so, state archival programs provide appropriate, unbiased, and effective stewardship of the historical records in their care. Consistent funding and support for the work of state archives enables them to effectively manage and make archival records widely accessible, take advantage of evolving technologies, and foster innovative projects and research

State archives

- ◆Collect the records that make transparent government possible;
- ◆Preserve evidence of civil and property rights;
- ◆Ensure that rapidly changing technologies do not create a new “information Dark Age”; and
- ◆Protect the nation's most essential records from natural and man-made disasters.

There is much more to read on their website. Please navigate to <http://www.statearchivists.org/reports/Importance%20of%20State%20Archives.pdf>

American Indian Ancestry Clues

The following is republished from genealogy insider in the [family tree magazine](#).

5 Clues You May Have American Indian Ancestry

Posted by Diane Haddad

Many families have passed down stories of American Indian ancestors, and genealogists who grew up hearing them cherish these stories as part of their identities. This interesting article explains why such family tales are so common, and why folks will fiercely defend their American Indian roots even in the absence of concrete evidence.

Sometimes, though, the tales hold a grain of truth. If you suspect your family has American Indian heritage—perhaps your Grandmother spoke often of her Indian blood—here are five clues that should prompt you to investigate further:

1. An I or In designation appears in the "race" columns for an ancestor in the 1860 and later US censuses. The 1860 census was the first to identify Indians living in the general population. See this National Archives web page for more on Indians in the federal census.
2. A proven blood relative is named on an Indian reservation census or a tribal enrollment. You can search censuses for 16 tribes in Ancestry.com collection Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Indian Censuses and Rolls, 1851-1959. Ancestry.com and Fold 3 also have annual censuses taken by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On Fold3, these censuses are free to access through Nov. 15, along with the rest of its American Indian records.

You can browse annual Indian censuses for free using the links on [Access Genealogy](#).

Tribal enrollment, including the Dawes rolls and Guion-Miller rolls, were used to distribute land in Indian Territory. Many of the resulting records are part of Ancestry.com's American Indian collection. The Oklahoma Historical Society has indexes to the Dawes Rolls and other resources.

American Indian Ancestry Clues *continued*

3. A genetic genealogy test indicates you have DNA markers associated with American Indian ancestry. The absence of these markers doesn't necessarily mean that you don't have American Indian ancestry. It's possible an American Indian is far back enough in your family tree that you didn't inherit the person's DNA.
4. Family stories and papers tell of American Indian ancestry, and your ancestors lived in areas where they would've come into contact with Indians. It's important to know the history of the places you're researching.
5. An ancestor lived in Indian Territory by 1900. This raises the possibility that your ancestor was a member of a tribe that was removed to Indian Territory, which once encompassed most of what's now Oklahoma.

Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823

The following is republished from the Fort Wayne Library's Genealogy Gems No. 140. The article is by Delia Bourne.

Travel across the North American continent was not easy in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Movement south or west from the east coast colonies might entail passage through territory controlled by British, Spanish, French, and Native American forces. Although Native American affairs, including travel, fell under federal control, as did foreign travel, various people and offices issued passports. Dorothy Williams Potter's "Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823" (975 P85P) contains records of passports and other travel documents.

Passports authorized travel for purposes of trade, to collect debts, to recover stolen or strayed goods and chattels, to visit with a view toward settlement or to just travel through. Character references were often provided and effort was made to deny access to those who might trouble the public peace. There were no standardized forms, only requests for passports, generally by letter.

The volume is divided into sections, including: Spanish passports for the Mississippi Valley; British and Spanish passports for West Florida; War Department passports for various Indian agencies including Creek, Choctaw and Chickasaw, and Cherokee; State Department passports into the Southwest Territory, Mississippi Territory, Louisiana, Orleans and Missouri Territory (including Illinois); and state issued passports from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. Each section provides historical background to the area and contemporary events. The volume includes a name and subject (location) index, and an excellent section of notes and references.

Some of the documents transcribed include letters, such as the 1796 correspondence of Andrew Pickens of Hopewell, thanking James Robertson of Tennessee for hospitality extended to Pickens's nephew Ebenezer Miller, or the 1801 Creek Agency letter of Benjamin Hawkins noting that John Elijah Ofin had a pass from the governor of New Orleans. African American slaves were often named when transported through or into an area, as was the case with 14 year old Sam, about four feet nine inches tall, who was transported through Indian Territory in 1812 by Major Neal.

Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823 *continued*

Other mentions of “intruders” are included. Silas Dinsmoor, of Knoxville, submitted to Tennessee Governor Siever a list of all non-Native residents of the area in 1797, noting names, ethnic connection and occupation. Aside from Americans, there are men from Scotland, Ireland, England and the Netherlands. Most were traders or the servants and hirelings of those traders, including Jack Civils, a trader and his servant Anthony Civils, both listed as Negro. Some were identified as undesirable, such as Bob Kilgore (“the worst of bad characters”), George Philips (“ranks among the most worthless”), Thomas Tunbridge (“trader who bears the worst of bad character”), and Jacob Hogner (“a stolen horse buyer of bad character”).

This is a valuable resource for those researching early American travelers, as well as being a fascinating read for anyone interested in history.

Finding Maiden Names

The following is republished from [Genealogy By Barry](#)

How to increase your success in finding the ancestor's maiden name

It's not uncommon for immigrant ancestors to marry outside of their culture. In my case I have Great-Great Grandmother Dahle, a Norwegian, marrying into my Welsh Jones line. In these situations the key is being able to locate the maiden name of the female ancestor. In my own research I have found that female maiden names are not included in the records of our male ancestors. For example: Females were not allowed to vote until the twentieth century and seldom owned land. Even in church records, we often find the full name of the husband or father, but then only the first name is listed for the female.

When I am faced with the need to find the maiden name of an ancestor, I will search the following record types:

Marriage records. I find marriage records to be the best place to find a maiden name. Marriage records refers to a group of records that are created at the time of marriage. Types of marriage records include a marriage license, marriage certificate, marriage announcements, marriage banns and bonds. To secure a marriage certificate, you will need to know the:

- Full name of the groom
- First name of the bride
- Approximate date of the marriage
- State or county of where the marriage took place

Church records. Church records usually include recordings of church marriages, baptism or christening. You will need to know the:

- Individual name
- Church where ceremony or ordinance was performed
- Name of clergy that appears on the certificate

Finding Maiden Names *continued*

Newspapers. The most common articles that yield maiden names are wedding announcements or obituaries. You will need to know the following:

- Approximate date of event
- Name of the groom for the wedding announcement
- Full name of deceased person
- State and city where the event occurred

When I can't find the obituary of a female ancestor, I will look for obituaries of their siblings and other family members, which usually provides clues I can follow in the census and other records.

Land records. I have found a few land records that were transferred from father to daughter. Examine deeds for your ancestor or her husband which include the Latin phrases "et ux." (and wife) and "et al." (and others). Land records may include the names of family members. Make sure you check who was selling land to your ancestors. It was common for these persons to be related to your family. If the parents of a female ancestor are the sellers, you may be able to find her maiden name.

Bible records. If you suspect there was a family bible, but it's no longer in the family's possession, you can sometimes find them through message boards or database searches. Many bibles have been digitized and are searchable on the internet. You will need to know the following information:

- Woman's full married name
- State and county in which she lived

Death records. If your ancestor died within the last century, chances are there is a death certificate. The certificates often list a maiden name. You will need to know the following:

Woman's full name

State and county in which she lived

Approximate date of death

Death certificates can often include inaccurate information. Make sure you review who provided the information and the relationship to assess the potential for accuracy.

Finding Maiden Names *continued*

Military pension records. If the husband of the ancestor I am researching was in the military, there is a good chance there is a pension record. You will need to know the following:

- Veteran's name
- Branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps)
- State where the veteran enlisted
- War in which the veteran served. (Note: If service was after 1916, you must also know entry and release dates, military ID number, Social Security number, whether an officer or enlisted, and date of birth.)

Cemetery records. Tombstones may reveal female's maiden name through

- The inscription: "wife of so and so"
- The inscription: Maiden name as a middle name or initial
- Checking nearby plots for possible family members
- Census records. Follow your ancestors through the census. Consider the following:
- Young couples may be found living with the wife's parents
- Elderly parent may have been added to the household
- Brothers, sisters, or other family members may be found living with the ancestors' family
- Clues may also be found in the names of families living nearby

Probate records and wills. If I have an idea of who the parents might be, I will check the probate records and wills for the name of children. To find the maiden name in probate records, you will need to know:

- Woman's full name at time of death
- Approximate date of her death
- County or town in which she lived at the time of her death

Administrative Stuff

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

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