



Arkansas Genealogical Society

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**AGS Ezine**

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Johnny Mann, editor  
George Mitchell, list manager

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### Which Family Tree Software Everyone Should Use?

Did that title get your interest? This question does not have an answer. My response is to use the program you find comfortable. **There is a more important issue!** Secure your tree so that it does not “blow away”. Recently there have been several articles about the idea of finding a genealogy program with staying power and taking responsibility for your data. We have seen several genealogy programs, good ones, “leave the Earth,” so to speak. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) went away in 2013 and Family Tree Maker, more recently, went away, then came back. Rest assured, it did not come back forever. Roots Magic stepped up the plate to make it easy for PAF users to migrate in 2013. They recently have made it easy for Family Tree Maker users to migrate to Roots Magic. So, do you believe Roots Magic will be here forever? Nothing is permanent, software, file formats, and even physical things.

What is a body to do? There is not just one answer to this question. The obvious response is to back up your data. That is a must, but just don’t stop there. If your software goes away, the backups are useless.

I will suggest exporting your tree to a GEDCOM on a regular schedule and store copies of your digital data, independent of your software database. Keep lots of copies. If your tree is online only, like on Ancestry.com, you must download a copy to your computer and then keep lots of copies.

If you want to know who is responsible to keep your data secure, look in the mirror!!

#### 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 –

Swedish America Heritage Online is a website for educational and Historical research. It digitally preserves the genealogy data and images of Swedish American emigrants, their ancestors and descendants. <http://www.sweame.org/gateway/gateway.html>. There is also a [Swedish Council of America](#) where you can subscribe to the Sweden & American Magazine.

“Ancestors, Family, and Associates in the War of 1812 Records”, a video, is available now, free of charge, on Ancestry Academy. <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/war-of-1812?ref=searchbar>. Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for this information.

Ancestry has not been able to repair all the webpages for its Rootsweb/USGenweb/WorldConnect web pages. They are asking, if you have a backup of your own, to please upload it to the site.

The Norfolk County, Massachusetts, Registry of Deeds is nearing the end of a 2 year, \$2 million project to transcribe the handwritten deeds from 1793, the founding, to 1900, when the office switched to typing. All the transcriptions are accessible free of charge, posted with the existing land records on the registry's website. Thanks to [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) for this information.

[Cyndi's List](#) began March 4, 1996, 20 years ago! Congratulations Cyndi. [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) has a posting concerning this milestone that you might want to read.

Read about the February launch of an African-American Genealogical Research Group in Oklahoma on [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#).

## Coming Events

April 9, 2016

Walks Thru History, The Perryville Commercial Historic District, 408 Main Street, Perryville, Arkansas from 11 am to 1 pm. Look for the details at <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/events/04-09-2016-walks-through-history/>.

April 16, 2016

Family History Conference at 6748 Lynch's Prairie Ct., Springdale, Arkansas. For more information, read the March Ezine or <http://www.familyhistoryconferencenwa.org/>

April 21–23, 2016

The Arkansas Historical Association 75th annual conference, April 21-23, in downtown Little Rock. The conference theme is "Arkansas since 1941." Registration materials are available online at <http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org/>

April 23, 2016

The Greene County Historical & Genealogical Society Heritage Fair is scheduled from 9:00 to 4:00 in the 3rd floor Conference Room of the First National Bank, 200 West Court St., Paragould, Arkansas. The Speakers are Joe Burns of the Tennessee Genealogical Society, Danny Honnoll, Kristian Mehl speaking on DNA, and Meredith McFadden with the Northeast AR Regional Archives. See pages 8 & 9.

April 25, 2016

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club meets at 6:30 in Room 67 of the Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Hill Drive, Little Rock. The program will be Fraternal Cemetery Carla Hines- Coleman & Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, Oakland- Fraternal Cemetery.

## Coming Events continued

April 30, 2016

The Arkansas History Commission and the Arkansas Genealogical Society are collaborating on a seminar to be held at the 1914 Schoolhouse in Washington, Arkansas. It will be a day-long event featuring four speakers. It will be fashioned similar to the May 2015 event at the State Capitol. Go to <http://www.ark-ives.com/news-events/> for the details.

May 4-7, 2016

The NGS 2016 Family History Conference will be held 4-7 May 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. Hotel reservations are now open at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/accommodations>.

May 6, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's *Sandwiching In History* program will be from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM. The tour will be of the Fulk Building at 300 Main Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. Bring your lunch.

May 17, 2016

PBS begins the new season of Genealogy Roadshow with Josh Taylor.

June 3-5, 2016

47th Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree 2016 at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA. See <http://www.genealogyjamboree.com/> for the details.

June 9-11, 2016

The 2016 Genealogy Jamboree in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Please go to <http://www.genealogyjamboree.us/> for all the details.

## Coming Events continued

June 11, 2016

NEW DATE for the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association's spring seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke. The original date, March 12, 2016 was canceled due to the flooding. There is still room, so go to their [website](#) for the details.

June 12–17, 2016

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University Library, week-long event will be in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration is now open. [Click here](#) to go to their website.

June 17-18, 2016

The 16th Annual Chapman Family Association Convention will be at the Overland Park Marriott this year. You may visit <http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/index.html> for more information.

August 5-6, 2016

The Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) and The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) are pleased to announce that the second Celtic Connections Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Double Tree. There will be 20+ lectures and presentations by well-known experts. If you might be interested, visit [http://www.celtic-connections.org/ccs\\_speakers.html](http://www.celtic-connections.org/ccs_speakers.html).

August 31– September 3, 2016

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be held in Springfield, Illinois. See [www.fgs.org](http://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. [One hotel is already sold out!]

## Coming Events continued

September 17, 2016

The Village Genealogy Society & Akansa Chapter, NSDAR are having a 2016 Fall Family History Workshop featuring Cari Taplin. You can learn more at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arhsvgs/>

September 23-24, 2016

2016 STANDRIDGE NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 23-24, 2016, La Quinta Inn, Bryant, AR. For additional information contact Russell P. Baker, 6525 Magnolia Dr., Mabelvale, AR 72103, [gobgob3@mindspring.com](mailto: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](http://HeritageBooks.com).

## Ouachita Baptist University's Archives and Special Collections

Ouachita Baptist University's Archives and Special Collections Department of Riley Hickingbotham Library in Arkadelphia, recently added a new search feature to its website, offering access to over 250,000 entries from resources pertaining to OBU, Arkansas Baptists, and Clark County, Arkansas. The Archives Department serves as the official historical record keeper for the university, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and the Clark County Historical Association.

A great starting point for genealogical research, local history, and Baptist history, a variety of works are included. Clark County entries include names and subjects from the 1973-2015 editions of the annual Clark County Historical Journal, various county records (tax assessments, circuit court, criminal court, civil court, chancery court, county court, brands and ear marks), and numerous publications such as county and community histories. Standard Arkansas Baptist history resources (some of which have never before been indexed) such as J. S. Rogers' History of Arkansas Baptists and early association records (1820-1900), are included. Listings from the OBU student newspaper, The Signal, and other publications, carry researchers to university related materials. Each resource is accompanied by a brief description, including its location in the Archives and Special Collections Department. The database is a work in progress, with entries being added almost daily.

Visit [www.obu.edu/archives](http://www.obu.edu/archives) and click on SEARCH COLLECTIONS to give it a try! For questions or additional information contact Wendy Richter, Archivist, at 870.245.5332 or [richterw@obu.edu](mailto:richterw@obu.edu).

## Greene County Heritage Fair

The Heritage Fair is April 23, 2016, hosted by the [Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society](#). Location is 3rd floor of the First National Bank, corner of 200 West Court Street in downtown Paragould.

There is a choice of a Ham, Turkey, or Roast Beef sandwich from Subway for lunch. The cost is \$7.00, which includes a drink, cookie, and chips. Please contact them by April 14, 2016 at [gchgs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gchgs@sbcglobal.net) or call 870-240-8944 to make your selection.

### Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and opening remarks by Venus Allen, President and Jean Batton, Vice President of Programs.
- 10:00 a.m. Scanning Multiple Images by Joe Burns of the Tennessee Genealogy Society
- 11:00 a.m. The Life and Times of General Robert E. Lee by Danny Honnoll, Commander of Shaver Camp No. 1655
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. DNA by Kristina Mehl, DNA Analyst
- 2:00 p.m. Rescue of a Slave by Meredith McFadden, NE AR Regional Archives



## **Greene County Heritage Fair *continued***

### **Speakers**

#### **Joe Burns**

President of the Tennessee Genealogy Society, Germantown, Tennessee. Joe's topic will be working with and scanning multiple images.

#### **Danny Honnoll**

Commander of the Shaver Camp No. 1655; Sons of Confederate Veterans; Sons of Revolution; a Colonel of the 30th Arkansas Infantry Living Historians of Arkansas, and Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commissioner.

#### **Kristina Mehl**

Kristina earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Southeast Missouri State University. She went on to earn her master's degree in biology from Washington University in St. Louis. She has been working as a DNA analyst for the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab in Cape Girardeau for 5 years, where she has worked multiple high profile cases. In addition she teaches a forensic DNA course at SEMO and at SEMO's Law Enforcement Academy.

#### **Meredith McFadden**

Meredith McFadden is an Archival Assistant at the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA), a branch of the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.A. in History from Biola University in La Mirada, CA, and a M.S. in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to joining the Arkansas History Commission, McFadden worked at the Clinton Presidential Library, and at the Arkansas State University Archives and Special Collections Department. McFadden joined the Arkansas History Commission in 2014.

## Pascagoula, Mississippi Public Library's Digitizing Project

I could write an article to put a spot light on our "records at risk", but Dick Eastman says it well.

*The following is republished from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#).*

Hurricane Katrina taught us many lessons. One is how quickly material things can be destroyed. Members of the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society became keenly aware of the vulnerability of one-of-a-kind records, books, maps and photographs housed at the Pascagoula Public Library's Local Genealogy and History Department. The society has raised funds for computer and scanning equipment to begin the task to digitize and organize these assets and back them up in safe locations.

The first project tackled hundreds of file folders containing local family histories collected over a period of years. These are heavily used by local and family history researchers. Future plans include digitizing approximately 7,687 books, 5,725 periodicals, 3,833 microfilm rolls, 2,600 microfiche, 750 maps, 2,860 scanned family vertical files, 2,030 local history vertical files, 60 oral histories, 1,365 photos, 130 slides from local newspapers, 59 VHS tapes, 34,408 scanned obituaries, and 194 boxes of archives from Jackson County.

Not only does this project make backup copies in case of future disasters, it also makes the materials more accessible to students, genealogists, historians, and others. The committee is working towards making the scanned materials accessible online.

You can read more about this great project in an article by Joanne Anderson in the GulfLive web site. Go to the EOGN website for this link.

What is YOUR local society doing to preserve valuable historical items and to make them more available to the public?

## Lewes Historical Society Tombstone Project

*The following is republished from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)*

Lots of societies are creating databases of local tombstones and, of course, we have the huge international tombstone databases at BillionGraves.com and FindAGrave.com. However, one local society is documenting tombstones and a lot more.

The Lewes Historical Society spend several years creating a a database of about 8,500 graves in Lewes & Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, each with a GPS location to pinpoint not only where a grave can be found, but also where within a cemetery a grave is located. The project is now moving into a new phase, as the historical society is building a new website that will connect the graves to photographs, letters and other artifacts about the individuals in the society's collection.

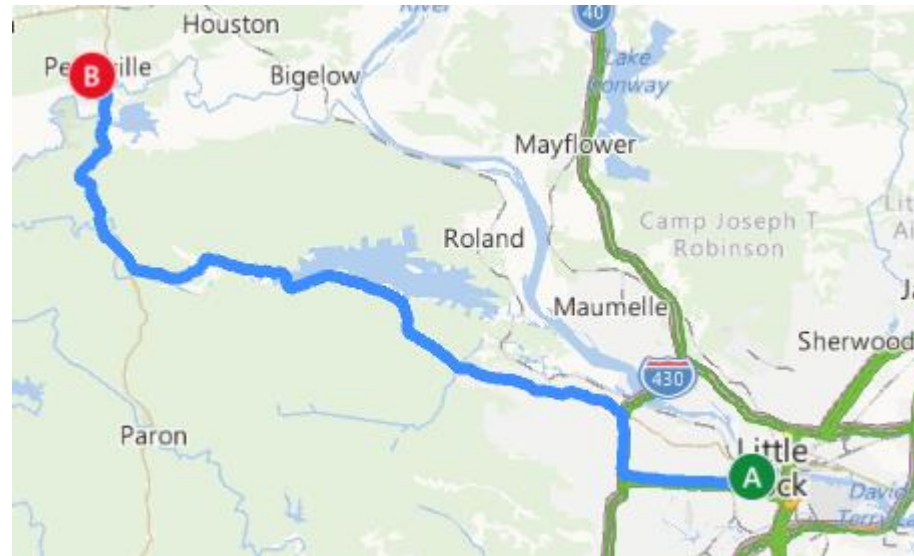
The database can be found on the historical society's website [www.historiclewes.org](http://www.historiclewes.org). It features several drop-down menus to narrow searches to specific birth years, death years and cemeteries. Results may also be narrowed by searching for a specific name.

You can read a lot more about this project in an article by Nick Roth in the Cape Gazette web site. Go to the EOGN website for this link.

## Walks Through History

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program schedules a “*Walks Through History*” tour for each month. The April “*Walks Through History*” tour is of the Perryville Commercial Historic District, 408 Main Street, Perryville, Arkansas. It will start April 9th at 11:00 AM and to until 1:00 PM.

Perryville is the county seat of Perry County. The population in 2010 was 1,460.



Roughly bounded by AR 10, Magnolia, Main & Plum streets  
Listed in National Register of Historic Places on 1/26/12

## Coloring Book of Historic Sites

Announcement by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) is pleased to announce the second in our popular coloring book series that covers historic properties in Arkansas. Finding Authentic Arkansas includes coloring pages and short readings focused on the following properties: Fort Smith National Historic Site at Fort Smith in Sebastian County, the Gann Building at Benton in Saline County, the War Eagle bridge and mill at War Eagle in Benton County, the Calhoun County Courthouse at Hampton, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer House at Piggott in Clay County, the Judsonia Bridge near Judsonia in White County, the Chicot County Training School in Chicot County, the United States Post Office and Courthouse at Texarkana in Miller County, the National Guard Armory at Batesville in Independence County, and the Old South Restaurant at Russellville in Pope County. Finding Authentic Arkansas also includes reading comprehension and timeline creation activities aligned with Arkansas Social Studies standards for students in grades 1-5.

Digital copies of the coloring book can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/Learn-More/Teaching-Materials/teaching-materials-home> and by clicking on the file titled "AHPP Coloring Book 2016." Teachers, librarians, or parents can request free copies of Finding Authentic Arkansas by filling out a request form at <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/Learn-More/Teaching-Materials/teaching-materials-home>, by e-mailing [shelle@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:shelle@arkansasheritage.org), or by calling 501-324-9880.

## Request For Participation

The following was received as a request to the AGS website, forwarded for the newsletter by Russell Baker. I have not taken the survey, but have visited the websites. My virus software (Trend Micro) did not block these two sites.

*I am a PhD student with Sheffield University, England. I am reaching out to genealogists and family historians worldwide who have discovered ancestors in the records of the criminal justice system to ask them to fill in a short anonymous survey or participate in an interview.*

*I have prepared the following text to explain the project. Is this something that would be of interest to your members? Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional details.*

*Many thanks for your consideration*

*Aoife O Connor*

### A Criminal Ancestor

Are you descended from convict ancestors transported far from home or did great, great, great uncle John end up in court for squabbling with the neighbours? If your ancestor was a hardened criminal, a victim of a miscarriage of justice, a political prisoner, or in court for not paying their dog licence a new study is looking to hear from you.

Criminals in the family have always fascinated family historians and it seems more of us are discovering more of them all of the time. The digitisation of the records of the criminal justice system and newspapers are bringing to light a side of our ancestors that may have previously been kept secret.

The crimes themselves range from the minor, even amusing, to the serious, and tragic. From a few cows wandering unsupervised along a country lane resulting in an appearance at the petty sessions court and a

## Request For Participation *continued*

2 shilling fine, to a young girl stealing some lace and being transported for 7 years to Australia, a sentence which really meant a lifetime exiled from her native land. A young boy imprisoned for vagrancy. A rebel. A highwayman. A murderer.

The documents which record their crimes often have amazingly rich details not found in birth, marriage, or even census records. From prison registers we can get physical descriptions of someone who lived long before the invention of photography, we can learn their height, weight, eye and hair colour, and any distinguishing scars or features such as tattoos. From newspaper accounts of trials we hear their voices as they give evidence.

But how do we feel when we come across an ancestor who broke the law? And how do they shape how we view our family's history? Is a criminal ancestor someone to be ashamed of, to celebrate, or part of a larger story? What do their crimes, and the punishments they received tell us about them as people, and about the time and society they lived in? You can help provide the answers.

As part of the Digital Panopticon project [www.digitalpanopticon.org](http://www.digitalpanopticon.org), Aoife O Connor of the University of Sheffield wants to hear from family historians across the globe who have discovered ancestors who were connected to a crime. She is conducting short anonymous online surveys which can be found here; [www.acriminalrecord.org/surveys/](http://www.acriminalrecord.org/surveys/)

Aoife is based in Dublin, Ireland and is studying for her PhD part-time. Her own family history includes, among others, one ancestor aged 18 imprisoned in 1821 for thirteen days on suspicion of stealing a frame saw (the same ancestor was fined for excise duty evasion to the tune of £12 10 shillings in 1838), and another who was fined two shillings at the Petty Sessions Court on the 24 December 1855 for driving a horse and cart with no reins.

## Photo Preservation Tip

*The following is republished from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 144, February 29, 2016.*

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation--Family Photographs

by John D. Beatty, CG (sm)\*

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What do we do when we inherit a mass of old family photographs? We may not be prepared for such a largesse, especially when it comes unexpectedly. All too often in many families, precious images are sent to auction houses or worse, tossed into dumpsters, especially when the subjects are not known or the heirs have no interest in genealogy.

Photograph expert Maureen Taylor, who visited the Allen County Public Library last year, offers some helpful tips about what to do in this situation in a recent blog post. She advises three steps: 1. Interview, if possible, the person giving up the photo collection. He or she can be invaluable for providing information about provenance and may help establish the identities of the people in the collection. 2. Scan. Make digital copies of all of the images in the collection. 3. File them a way for safe-keeping. That means you should store your photos in archival-quality sleeves or folders so that the collection will not undergo further deterioration. Never throw a picture away, even after you have digitized it. Maureen's book, 'Photo Organizing Practices: Daguerreotypes to Digital (2014) (929 T21ph), offers many useful tips, and Maureen herself is available for more extensive, individualized consultations <https://maureentaylor.com/>

\* "CG" & "Certified Genealogist" are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists® and are used by authorized associates following periodic, peer-reviewed competency evaluations. Certificate No. 1050, awarded 8 August 2014; expires 8 August 2019.

There is more about genealogy available today on the internet than a person can read. In my opinion, Genealogy Gems from the For Wayne Library is well worth your time. You can take what I glean from it or you can subscribe for yourself. To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," simply use your browser to go to the website, [www.GenealogyCenter.org](http://www.GenealogyCenter.org), scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.



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## **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [doug44mann@gmail.com](mailto: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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