



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 11, No. 5, May, 2016

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

Call for ideas

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!

A few AGS members began a project some 16 years ago which was completed in 2015. That project produced the fifteen volume set named *The Arkansas Prior Birth Index*. There is a very informative article by Susan G. Boyle about this set in the Fall 2015 issue (Vol. 53, No. 3) of the *Arkansas Family Historian*. Susan was one of several AGS volunteers who worked to create this valuable resource. Working to make difficult (impossible)-to-access records available is one of the services a Genealogical Society can perform.

That project was done then by those AGS members. This is 2016 and there is still work that can be done by the current membership. The first step in finishing a work is defining the project. I would request that we members start to make a list, as we have ideas, of things that we consider important enough to do. The right project will provide an opportunity to serve and result in a valuable resource of Arkansas records for the genealogy community. Some of you are aware of records available in only one place, records that are known to very few people. As you are researching a set of records on site, consider how other people can access those records, or how they can even know that the records exist.

I will create a new email address to receive your lists. That new email address will be announced in the July Issue of the Ezine, so please hold your ideas until then.

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Tidbits –

Some of the programs and handouts from the “Who Do You Think Your Are” program are available free online. The April 22, 2016 [UPFRONT WITH NGS](#) article is the source for this little tidbit.

Alberta, Canada homestead records, 1870-1930, are now available online at [Ancestry](#). Thanks to Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter for this information.

There is a posting on the FamilySearch Blog that you should read titled [Three Tech Tools Every Genealogist Should Have](#). You will have to read it on their site since FamilySearch does not allow republishing of their content.

Here is a link to the recently added and updated collections on Ancestry. http://www.ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections?o_xid=68876&o_lid=68876&o_sch=Email+-+Programs. If you do not subscribe to Ancestry.com, It is probably available at a library near you for library card holders.

If you think that you will never again sit at a microfilm machine, you would probably be wrong. No matter what you hear, microfilm is not nearing extinction. Read [Microfilm is NOT on death’s doorstep nor will be anytime soon](#) on Upfront With NGS.

NYPL public domain collections: free to share and use at <http://www.nypl.org/research/collections/digital-collections/public-domain>.

Coming Events

May 4-7, 2016

The NGS 2016 Family History Conference is currently in progress, 4-7 May 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.

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 8, 2016 MOTHER'S DAY

May 9, 2016

Genealogy classes are held every 2nd Monday at 3:30 p.m. at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. They are taught by Rhonda Stewart. You may email Rhonda at rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us.

May 11, 2016

The Garland County Historical Society will have a party at the Convention Center from 4 to 6. This is an opportunity to browse the GCHS publications and see Mark Blaeuer's just released book, *Baseball in Hot Springs*.

May 14, 2016

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's *Walks Through History* at Saint Mary's Catholic Church (Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and Cemetery, 5118 St. Mary's Lane, Altus, AR from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 17, 2016

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

Coming Events continued

May 19, 2016

Dr. Nancy Hendricks, author of the new book "Notable Women of Arkansas: from Hattie to Hillary, 100 Names to Know," will appear at the Bob Herzfeld Library Thursday, May 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. If you've never attended a program presented by Dr. Hendricks, you're missing out! She often portrays the characters herself, so come ready for a show!

May 23, 2016

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club will NOT have a May meeting.

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.

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 may still be 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.

Coming Events continued

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.

July 16, 2016

Craighead County Genealogical Society's *Summer Lock In* from 5:00 p.m. to midnight at the Jonesboro Public Library, 315 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro, AR. Contact email is gscca@suddenlink.net or 870-219-0535.

July 23, 2016

The Butler Center's 2016 Genealogy Workshop, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at CALS Ron Robinson Theater, 100 River Market Avenue, Little Rock. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Please check <http://www.butlercenter.org/workshop/> for all the details.

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.

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. [One hotel is already sold out!]

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/>

Coming Events continued

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

September 18–25, 2016

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

September 30–October 1, 2016

The Pierre Chastain Family Association will hold their annual reunion at Hiawassee, Georgia. See page 18 for all the details.

May 10-13, 2017

The National Genealogical Society's 2017 Family History Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. Conference Registration begins December 1, 2016. Hotels will begin accepting reservations for the conference on June 15, 2016. See page 19 for more information.

Arkansas Humanities Council Grant to the Arkansas History Commission

Arkansas History Commission press release

Little Rock - The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$24,387 by the Arkansas Humanities Council.

The grant, given for the project, “The Essence of Arkansas: Using Archival Records to Document Arkansas’s Culture,” will support the funding of programs and events throughout 2016.

Each year, the History Commission hosts a variety of free programs and events for the public. This year’s events include “African American Arts in Arkansas,” “The Roots of German Foodways in Arkansas,” “Using Archival Records to Save Historic Structures,” “Arkansas’s Home Run: The History of Major League Training in Hot Springs,” and an Arkansas Folk Music Legends workshop.

Dr. Lisa K. Speer, Director of the Arkansas History Commission said of the grant award, “We are so grateful to the Arkansas Humanities Council for its continued support. This funding allows us to offer a wide variety of free, quality public programs that we otherwise would not have the funding to do on our modest state appropriation. I am particularly excited about the diversity of our 2016 public programs, which will explore a variety of aspects of Arkansas culture including food, music and sports. I think we’ll have something to offer everyone.”

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.

Garland County Historical Society May Programs

In May the Garland County Historical Society will present a four-week course of programs at the Hot Springs Senior Center, 210 Woodbine. Registration is required. Contact Judy Rowe at 501/624-0838 or jrowe@stvincenthealth.com to register.

The schedule is:

- Tuesday, May 10, 1:30 The Majestic Hotel. Presenter Gary Jackson
- Tuesday, May 17, 1:30 The Arlington Hotel. Presenter Mike Blythe
- Tuesday, May 24, 1:30 The Fire of 1913. Presenters Clyde Covington, Mike Blythe, and Liz Robbins
- Tuesday, May 31, 1:30 Then and Now: Hot Springs, Arkansas. Presenter M. Blythe

NYC Marriage Records Index

Found this on [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#). The New York City marriage index, 1908-1929 is on line thanks to [Reclaim The Records](#). The following is part of the article in "Reclaim The Records."

Reclaim The Records' first FOIL request, our pilot project, was an attempt to get access under the New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) to the index to some old marriage documents that were stored only in the New York City Municipal Archives in lower Manhattan.

There are two sets of marriage-related records kept on-site at the NYC Municipal Archives. The better-known is the late 1800's-1937 marriage certificates, originally kept by the NYC Health Department. There are two indices to this record collection, commonly called the "Brides Index" and "Grooms Index", to help you find the right document. Both the certificates and its indices are available on FamilySearch microfilm. They have also been transcribed and turned into a free searchable database through a volunteer-run project organized by non-profit genealogy groups. That volunteer-created transcribed database was also recently added to Ancestry.com.

If you've ever ordered a copy of your family's New York City marriage certificate, this is almost certainly what you got: a brief two-page document from this Health Department record series.

But our FOIL request was not about those certificates.

Instead, we were trying to get public access to the index to a much lesser-known but very important record set. This set was originally kept by the New York City Clerk's Office, and it is the 1908-1929 application, affidavit, and license for a marriage, a totally separate three-page document that is generally dated a few weeks before the actual marriage took place.

I suggest that you read this very interesting article at <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/1/>, even if you will not need this data set for your personal research.

My Tree is Back to Adam!

Most of us have heard another person say “I have my family tree back to Adam and Eve,” or some similar statement. From my point of view, what is the purpose? The story of our history, the flesh on the bones of our tree, provides the most important aspect of our research. The family tree, properly documented, is where we start. The fun part is adding the meat to the bones.

Back to the question, can a tree be traced back to Adam and Eve? Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter post of April 21, 2016 has the answer. The simple answer is no. Rather than republish his article in our newsletter, you should read it from his website at this [LINK](#).

After you read the EOGN posting, you can decide how you will respond to a person making such a statement. In most cases, I will likely just smile and politely change the subject.

Online Learning Resources

The following is republished from the March 31, 2016 issue of Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library

How many times have you wished you could view genealogy classes from home any time of day according to your own schedule? Genealogical societies and libraries offer a variety of live classes throughout the year that may interest us, but after looking at the dates and times they are offered, we may find that we are unable to attend.

FamilySearch has put together a variety of videos (online training sessions) to help us succeed in researching our family history. Handouts are included for each video session. You may choose from beginning courses or select a topic or country. These online classes are available to you at any time. They are especially helpful if you are unable to attend live genealogy classes or workshops.

You can view a list of available courses by going to www.familysearch.org and selecting “Get Help” in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. A pop-up box appears, revealing the Learning Center link under the “Self Help” section. Within the Learning Center, you will find a list of courses by Place, Skill Level (Beginners, Intermediate or Advanced), Subject, Format, and Subject Language.

In the center of the screen, you will find sections marked “RootsTech 2016,” “Most Popular Courses,” “New Courses,” and “Beginning Genealogy Courses” videos. These beginning sessions are short and last just five minutes. For example, the “5 Minute Genealogy Episode 1: Quick Start Lessons” explains how you can find information about an ancestor in just five minutes or less. To do this, your ancestor or family member must have been born before April 1, 1940.

Another course is “An Introduction to Castle Garden - Your Ancestors’ Gateway to America.” You can find it by clicking on a few links (under place, “United States,” under subject, “Migration and Citizenship”), or you can type in the search box the words “Castle Garden.” The presenter gives a brief history of Castle Garden and how to search for ancestors who arrived in New York City before the opening of Ellis Island.

Ancestry.com also has a learning center. To access it, just click on “Learning Center” in the banner at the top, or type in <http://www.ancestryinstitution.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS>. You will also see a box titled, Ancestry Academy. For the list of courses, click on “All Categories” or “see all.”

Online Learning Resources *continued*

You may also find genealogy classes on You Tube (www.youtube.com). Do a search on genealogy. Classes from 10 minutes to over an hour are available.

The Genealogy Center also has some “How To” videos. You can access them from our home page under the “Who We Are” section or <http://www.genealogycenter.org/Services/orientation>. We are planning in the near future to add more short-length “How To” videos as well as videos of some of the classes we offer.

AncestorCloud

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

[AncestorCloud](#) is a community that connects family researchers with professional and advanced amateur researchers who can supply documents or other evidence of family history relationships. It is a good method of connecting information “seekers” with “helpers” who agree to perform the requested task: pick up records, take local photographs, translate documents, help with research questions, or conduct custom research. Information providers currently registered as helpers are available all across the United States as well as in many other countries.

AncestorCloud recently gained a lot of publicity when it was a finalist in the 2016 Innovator Showdown held two weeks ago at RootsTech2016 in Salt Lake City.

AncestorCloud allows anyone to connect with helpers who are willing to do the leg work. It bears a lot of similarity to Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness at <http://www.raogk.org> with one major exception: Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness is handled entirely by volunteers at no charge (other than reimbursement of expenses) while AncestorCloud is fee-based.

While everyone loves free, the fact remains that paying for results has a higher probability of success than does relying on volunteers. First of all, professional genealogists and researchers usually know a lot more about the availability of local records than do many amateurs. Next, professionals typically are “in the business” of supplying such information and can usually respond quickly and with accuracy. Finally, payments often assure faster results.

AncestorCloud is free to view and to post requests. Everyone is also encouraged to participate in the message board community at no charge. The seeker can post requests at no charge. The potential helper also can use the site at no charge to look for requests. If someone agrees to provide copies of requested documents or other information, the fee is negotiated one-on-one between the seeker and the helper.

Payment is made to AncestorCloud immediately when the two parties agree on the price. However, the payment is held in escrow by AncestorCloud until the two parties agree that the requested information has been provided. Funds are then released to the helper. If the information cannot be provided, the funds are returned to the seeker.

AncestorCloud *continued*

Once the information has been provided, payment is processed by PayPal's highly-secure payment system to send funds online. Payment may be made with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card, PayPal funds, or a direct electronic transfer from a checking account. If no one is able to supply the request information, there is no charge.

AncestorCloud makes its money by charging a small portion of the reward exchanged after research help has been completed to the seeker's satisfaction.

You can learn more about Ancestor Cloud at <http://ancestorcloud.com/#/>.

I have not personally used this resource yet. Notice the modifier "yet." I have registered and do plan to try it. If you give it a shot, please share your opinion.

Where Is The Information?

Are you trying to perform all your genealogy searches in you pajamas? Yes, it is more comfortable. A person does not have to shave or put on makeup, as the case may be. FamilySearch and Ancestry have so many records, more than I can ever review. A person can spend hours, just on those two sites, and there are many other online places to look. When we stop and think about it though, we will not use most of those records. We need only the records that are informative to our family. We do find a lot of pertinent information on the web, but that is really just a start. Most of the information of interest to genealogists is not available on the web. Many records are added each month, but those records critical to our research may NEVER be added! Dick Eastman stated on his EOGN blog in [Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information](#), that “95% of the information of interest to genealogist is not yet available on the Internet.” The percentage may not be precisely accurate, but you get the point.

What do you do? How do you find what you need? You need a plan.

- ◇ Review the information you already have and define ONE fact you want to find. One fact.
- ◇ Search online for that fact. Be very careful to avoid those rabbit holes.
- ◇ Search online for where that fact might be found.
- ◇ Call, email, write, or tweet the facility, like a library, to verify that resource is there and available.
- ◇ Decide who will perform that research. That person can be you or the person you “hire.”

You actually do this again and again, for each fact. Then file each research project by location. When a list is long enough to make a trip, go to the location or hire a fellow genealogist on site. It is more efficient this way. You just have to have patience.

Are we there???

Norwegian Research

The following is republished from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 141, November 30, 2015.

Digitalarkivet--National Archives of Norway's Digital Archives

by Sara Allen

Genealogical researchers with Norwegian origins should be sure to peruse the online Digitalarkivet or Digital Archives of the National Archives of Norway at: <http://arkivverket.no/arkivverket/Digitalarkivet/>. Here one can search databases, and read transcripts of or browse digital images of documents in the archives, as well as volunteer to help index and transcribe records. This free site is in the Norwegian language, but many portions of it can be translated to English by clicking on the word "English" or on the British flag at the top right-hand corner of the page.

Digitalarkivet features many record sets that are searchable by personal name or by property (address or farm name), including the following:

- Norwegian federal censuses: 1801, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1885, 1891, 1900, 1910
- Municipal censuses, 1920-1934
- Baptisms
- Communicants
- Marriages
- Burials
- Migration into and out of Norway
- And more

In addition, the following scanned documents may be browsed page by page, but are not yet fully searchable by name:

- Real estate records
- Probate
- Tax
- Cadastral maps
- And more

Norwegian Research *continued*

The ability to search major record groups by name is a great option for those who know their ancestors came from Norway, but do not know the specific town, farm or parish. The following example demonstrates this website's usefulness in finding an immigrant ancestor's parents' names and birth place in Norway. Norwegian-born Christian Wold died June 11, 1914 in Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa at age 39. According to his Iowa death record abstract, his parents were Hans Wold and Anna Gvare; while his children's Iowa birth record abstracts list his wife as Marit Flaa. Multiple searches of the Digitalarkivet website, under several alternate spellings of Christian's first and last name and the names of his supposed parents, revealed a birth for a Paul Odin Kristian Vold on August, 28, 1875 in Baklandet parish, Trondheim, Norway, with parents, Hans Peter Vold and Anna Kvaale. Further, a marriage record showed that this same Paul Odin Kristian Hansen Vold was wed to Marit Sivertdtr Midtflaa on March 16, 1902 in Domkirken parish, Trondheim. This couple subsequently immigrated to the United States on March 4, 1905, according to Norwegian emigration records, and can be found on a U.S. passenger list arriving in New York on March 22, 1905, emigrating from Trondheim. The 1910 census for Woodbury County, Iowa shows them as having emigrated in 1894, but the 1920 census gives the correct 1905 date for Marit.

In this case, Digitalarkivet's databases helped trace the family back another generation into Norway and identified the locations where the family lived prior to immigration, making this a remarkable source for researchers to consult. Try it today!

Pierre Chastain Annual Reunion

The following is republished from the Chastain Family Association announcement.

All descendants of Dr. Pierre Chastain are invited to the 2016 Annual Reunion, September 30 – October 1 at Hiawassee, Georgia. Headquarters for the Reunion will be the Lake Chatuge Lodge, 653 U.S. Highway 76, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546. To make reservations for lodging, call (706) 896-5253. The Association has a block of rooms set aside at the following special rates (Plus Tax): Standard Queen: \$87.00; Lake View Queen: \$97.00; Lake View King: \$97.00. These are on a first come, first served basis and you must ask for the PCFA rate. At this time, 20 rooms have been reserved, so make your reservations early.

If you or your ancestors have any of the following variations of the surname Chastain – Chasteen, Chastaine, Chastine, Chasten, Castine, Chesteen, or Shastid – then you are likely in the Pierre Chastain lineage. The Pierre Chastain Family Association began in 1975.

Friday evening we will have a "cookout" on the deck of the Lodge overlooking the lake. Saturday evening we will have our traditional banquet in the banquet room of the Lodge. Both meals will be catered by The Chophouse Restaurant and overseen by Chef James Reaux, who is nationally renowned.

As always there will be the "famous" Brown Genealogy Books and in-house help with your genealogy questions. There will be speakers on topics of interest to the group and time available to explore this beautiful area in north Georgia on your own.

Please note that in addition to booking a room you will need to register for the reunion separately. To register for the Reunion please send request for information to the Publicity Chair, Carol Migdat, 708 Bodega Bay Dr., Keller, TX 76248. Phone: 817/379-7711. E-mail is pcfapublicity@gmail.com

A family membership in the Association is currently \$20 per year or \$200 for lifetime membership. This includes a publication, "The Chestnut tree", 3 times a year. Membership Chairman is: J.D. Chastain, 20122 S. Hwy. 59, Siloam Springs, Arkansas 72761. Phone: 479-524-3461. Email: jdchastain@centurytel.net.

NGS 2017 Family History Conference

The National Genealogical Society announced the details of the 2017 Family History Conference in their April–June (Volume 42, Number 2) issue of the NGS Magazine. The Family History Conference will be in Raleigh, North Carolina May 10 through May 13 next year (Monday through Saturday) and will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center. The NGS Magazine article provides a good summary of the North Carolina roots and the Research Facilities available in the area. There is also information about the convention center, the participating hotels, and available tours and events.

Conference registration begins on December 1, 2016 at www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info. This link is not active to the 2017 Conference yet. It currently will take you to the 2016 Conference site. Based on the past, when this link is active for 2017, you can learn all you need to know about the conference.

The hotels begin accepting reservations for the conference at the conference rates on June 15, 2016. Using the words in the NGS Magazine, “Since past experience has shown that conference hotels tend to fill quickly, early reservations are recommended.” My preference is to stay in the hotel connected to the place where everything is happening. I like to be able to walk back to my room during the day. I understand, after speaking with the Raleigh Marriott City Center hotel, that this hotel is connected to the convention center through an underground walk way. As we are planning to attend the 2017 conference, I will call the “Conference Hotel” on June 15 to make reservations. I expect to find the hotel has set the deadline for cancellations to be about a month or so before May 10, 2017. If you think you might attend, I suggest that you call on June 15.

The only NGS Family History Conference we have attended was 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina. We had planned to attend the conference in 2015 and the one this year, but were unable to attend either. In 2011, the NGS member rate to attend the conference was \$35 less than the non-member rate. The current cost to be an NGS member for a year is \$65. Members receive the Quarterly, the NGS Magazine, and several other benefits. You can learn about all the benefits a member enjoys at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/individual_member_benefits. No, I DID NOT receive a commission for including this “plug.” It is just information you might want to know.

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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