



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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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!

The May issue of the Ezine had this same heading. I will not repeat that article here, so if you have not read that page of the May issue, please take the time to do so now. You can find the May issue on the [AGS Website](#).

One of the purposes of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, as stated on our web page, is “to preserve and make accessible historical, genealogical, and biographical sources pertaining to Arkansas.” You may know of a set of records which are accessible only by visiting the repository. As you well know, only a very small number of researchers have the time and money to travel to all the places the records they need are located. We can help. If you are a member of the AGS, you are part of that “we.” If you want to be a member of the AGS, please join.

The first step is to identify a project. You can help there by sending your ideas in for consideration. If we receive more ideas than we can possibly start on, that will be a great thing. No project is too small or too large. Don’t be reluctant to recommend records in a location you think is too out of the way. Ideas are what we need.

You can send your ideas to this new email address: IdeasForAGS@gmail.com, which will continue to be on the last page of future issues of the Ezine.

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Tidbits —

Findmypast Celebrates the 4th of July with Free Access to More than 1 Billion records. See [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter's June 28, 2016](#) article for more details.

Evernote has made some changes to their pricing plans. Whether you are a user or not, you should read the June 28, 2016 [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#). He gives a concise summary of the differences in the three plans. The basic plan is FREE. You could probably afford that.

Do you have 5 minutes to spare? Ancestry has several [Five Minute Finds](#) YouTube videos. I believe there are 35 to enjoy.

I recommend that you take a look at [Genealogy by Barry](#). His web site states "Barry J. Ewell writes on the topics of Genealogy and Family History." Barry has a lot of content you will probably find helpful.

Coming Events

July 9, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be at the *Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium Historic District*, Booneville, Arkansas. The time is 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

July 9, 2016

Registration opens for the 2017 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Openings usually sell out within minutes after registration opens. The full list of available courses is at slig.ugagenealogy.org.

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 gscga@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. Also see page 13 of the June 2016 Ezine.

July 25, 2016

Heritage Seekers meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. The program is *Tracking My Father's Footsteps: Tracing Service in Vietnam with Alternative Resources* by April Goff of the Arkansas History Commission.

Coming Events continued

July 27, 2016

The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee will meet from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the Arkansas National Guard Museum at Lloyd England Hall at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

July 30, 2016

Heritage Seekers' Genealogy Research Day at the Butler Center. See the [Heritage Seekers](#) new website.

August 5, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [Sandwiching in History](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Helen Keller Memorial Building at 2600 Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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, MN 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 13, 2016

The [Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association](#) will hold a seminar and book fair at the Broadmoor United Methodist Church, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport. Diane L. Giannini of Bentonville, Arkansas will be the presenter. She is a Certified Genealogist.

Coming Events continued

August 31– September 3, 2016

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be held in Springfield, IL. 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/>

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, GA. See page 18 of the May Ezine for all the details. You can read the May Ezine on the [AGS website](#).

October 14-15, 2016

AGS Fall Seminar with Mark Lowe will be at the Benton Convention Center again. The details are on the [AGS website](#).

Coming Events continued

November 5, 2016

[Tennessee Genealogical Society Seminar](#) will be in Germantown, TN. The speaker will be Thomas MacEntee.

May 10-13, 2017

The National Genealogical Society's 2017 Family History Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, NC. Conference Registration begins December 1, 2016. Hotels began accepting reservations for the conference on June 15, 2016.

July 28 and 29, 2017

2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference will be held in Minneapolis, MN on July 28 and July 29, 2017, hosted by the [Germanic Genealogy Society](#). Click here for the [International Germanic Genealogy Conference flyer](#).

May 2-5, 2018

The NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The announcement was in the *NGS Monthly* from May 2016.

Ancestry Academy

The June 10, 2016 piece on [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) informs of new short courses on [Ancestry Academy](#). Those courses are:

- Pre 1850-Censuses
- 1850 Census: An Introduction
- 1890 Census: Where is it?
- 1880 Census: An Overview
- Introduction to the 1940 Census

These are the new courses, but there are many more. They vary from short (about 2 minutes) to over one hour. Many are free, but some are labeled “premium.” You may be inclined to believe that you already know about a particular course, like the 1850 census. But, maybe you don't know all you think you do. Just take a few minutes and prove that you do know, or possibly learn something helpful! You can take the courses on your computer or your tablet. How convenient is that?

If you select the “all topics” tab, you will see the course are categorized as:

- Ancestry Products
- Records
- Methodology and Skills
- Localities and Ethnic Research.

Happy learning.

1836 Arkansas State Auditor's Journal

The following is a June 15 Press Release from the Arkansas State Archive

1836 Arkansas State Auditor's Journal finds its way back to State Archives

June 15 officially marks the 180th anniversary of Arkansas's entry into the union as the 25th state. The Arkansas State Archives received a fitting donation to mark the occasion. An Arkansas State Auditor's journal containing entries from the first year of statehood through 1874 was donated by Philip Palmer of Maumelle to the State Archives.

The journal, which contains entries by noted Arkansans like John Selden Roane and Elias Conway, the state's fourth and fifth Governors, and includes correspondence and information about land grants, taxation, and county-level politics and finance, was almost lost to history. Palmer purchased the journal at a "junk store" in Benton in 2013. Store owners told Palmer that they had acquired the journal at a storage bin auction. The journal was at the bottom of a box with other, unremarkable contents thrown in on top. Palmer purchased the journal because he understood its historical value and wanted to save it from further damage or destruction.

In 2015, Palmer contacted Dr. Lisa K. Speer, State Historian and Director of the Arkansas State Archives about the journal. While Palmer initially loaned the journal to the State Archives for copying, ultimately he decided to make the loan a permanent gift. His only requests were that the donation be announced on Arkansas Statehood Day, and that the donation be recorded in memory of his parents, Dibrell W. Palmer and Billye June (Hiland) Palmer, who instilled in him an appreciation and love for the past.

Speer, State Archives Director, says of Palmer and the donation, "The State of Arkansas is indebted to Mr. Palmer that this important piece of history came into his care. The ledger fills a gap in our records from the State Auditor's office. In the hands of a less historically-minded citizen this journal might have been lost." Speer also noted that the inadequacy of the current public records law in Arkansas provides the ar-

1836 Arkansas State Auditor's *continued*

chives with no legal process for recovering state records that have fallen into private hands, a process called “replevin” that other state archives use to recover lost or misappropriated official records. “I am very grateful to Mr. Palmer,” Speer said, “for understanding that the greatest value in this ledger was the historical worth for telling the story of Arkansas’s early days as a state.”

The Arkansas State Archives, located in Little Rock, maintains the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world.

Announcement of the Arkansas State Archives New Website

The following is a June 15 Press Release from the Arkansas State Archives.

The Arkansas State Archives is pleased to announce the redesign of its website, www.ark-ives.com. For nearly two years, the agency has worked with Aristotle, a local web design company, to give its website a new look with a more streamlined, user-friendly functionality.

Featuring lighter colors and a user friendly navigation bar at the top, the newly redesigned website now has an integrated records search that makes locating historic records in the State Archives much simpler. The new search function allows researchers to conduct a much broader search of records from one platform while also allowing them to limit their search very specifically. The new site also gives researchers the option to search finding aids of the agency's archival collections or browse them alphabetically by title.

The website now features a section for educators with links to Arkansas History lesson plans, the Arkansas State Archives digital collections, research subject guides, microsites for the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, as well as links to other Arkansas History resources and archival agencies.

Other new features include information for researchers planning a visit to the State Archives or one of its regional archives, including driving directions, FAQs and research tips, and information on area lodging, ATMs, and restaurants. The website will also continue to maintain much of its current content.

The Arkansas 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 agency has two branch locations; the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives is located in Powhatan and the Southwest Regional Archives is located in Washington.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches

The following is from a May posting on Thomas MacEntee's [Geneabloggers](#).

Professional genealogist Deidre Erin Denton, through her website [Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches Genealogy](#), offers a Military Record Retrieval Service that can actually save you time and money! I am always interested when someone in our industry develops a new product or service so I contact Deidre for more information. As a result of our conversations, not only did I learn more about her records retrieval service, I also received a few sample pension files.

If you don't know Deidre or her involvement in genealogy, click [here](#) to read her story. I love the fact that she saw an opportunity not just as a business owner, but also as a way to help genealogists get the records they need at a lower price and on a faster timeline!

Military Records Retrieval Service - How It Works

You can order a US Civil War Pension, for example, from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For \$80, you receive the first 100 pages of the file and pay \$0.70 per page after the first 100. In addition, you receive a photocopy (in black and white) in the mail after a 3 to 6 month wait during which time you receive no update from NARA as to progress.

By using the Military Records Retrieval service from Twisted Twigs, you pay only \$65 for a complete pension and receive digitized color images in PDF format within 60 days. In addition, you will receive updates along the way as to progress made in the retrieval process.

How to Order

Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches *continued*

In order to take advantage of this deal from Twisted Twigs, visit <http://twistedtwigsgenealogy.com/geneabloggers/> and use the payment button at the bottom of the page. You can pay using Paypal or with a Check or Money Order.

First, you must have basic soldier service information or pension index card information in order for a search to be successful. Then email the information to Twisted Twigs and make payment. Within 24 hours, you will receive a confirmation email stating that your order has been accepted.

In addition, what if there are problems in locating your records? Here is what Deidre has posted on her site: “On the slim chance NARA cannot locate your ancestor’s pension file, you may request another veteran’s file or receive a full refund. We also resubmit requests a few days after a request is returned as ‘file not found’. The file may have been overlooked, we were helped by ‘lazy puller’, or perhaps a new tech was in training. A second submission usually receives results... or it’s really lost.”

What Can You Expect?

I have had the opportunity to review several actual pension files that were retrieved for clients. The PDF files were easy to download, clear and the fact that they are in COLOR (and not black and white) makes a big difference.

As for the content, I always find pension files to be great finds and to paraphrase Forrest Gump, “like a box of chocolates.” You really never know what you will find!

In the samples provided to me, I saw affidavits related to marriages, military service and more. I saw marriage certificates, letters from family members and even neighbors, and much more. Not only do these records help document military service, but very often I have discovered the marriage and birth info needed for spouses and children.

Conclusion

Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches *continued*

When you cannot make it to NARA to pull pension files, use a competent records retrieval service like the one provided by Deidre at Twisted Twigs. It is obvious from the sample files that Deidre knows how to locate these files and get them into your hands as soon as possible. Also click [here](#) to read the many testimonials about the Military Records Retrieval service and you will see how Deidre is invested in making sure you succeed when it comes to accessing these military records.

Visit <http://twistedtwigsgenealogy.com/geneabloggers/> for more information.

Virtual or Physical?

The following is from the November 20, 2015 posting on Harold Henderson's [Midwestern Microhistory: A Genealogy Blog](#).

I recently had occasion to compare physical and virtual city directory holdings. The results for this one location -- Decatur, Macon County, Illinois -- are as follows.

Assume that you're researching families that might be in Decatur over a 50-year period. Which source has the best collection of city directories 1870-1924?

Neither.

Exclusive holdings for each are in bold underline.

Ancestry has 1889, **1893**, 1896, 1899, 1903, **1907**, 1909, 1910, 1911, **1921, 1922, 1923**

[Decatur Public Library](#) has **1871-72, 1881, 1884**, 1889, 1896, 1899, **1901**, 1903, **1904, 1905, 1906**, 1909, 1910, 1911, **1912, 1915, 1919, 1920**

Don't assume that local repositories have a full collection for their own city! Indeed, since these books were ephemeral, more years may yet be out there.

Posted by Harold Henderson

In my opinion, this is a good blog to follow. There is also a link to [MidwesternRoots.net](#), Harold's website.

Leveraging Google

Froggie went a searchin' and he did go, uh huh

Searching, that is what we do a lot of. Your world probably includes some of the following: Ancestry, FamilySearch, Fold3, Newspapers.com, MyHeritage, Find a Grave, Geni, FindMyPast, Archives.com, Genealogy Bank, and, of course, Google. For an extensive listing of Genealogy Websites, go to [GenealogyInTime Magazine's Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2016](#).

Let's concentrate on Google for now. Using Google might be compared to using a cake decorating kit. Wilton has a 46-Piece Deluxe Cake Decorating Set. I am not an expert on cake decorating, but that seems complicated. Google is somewhat like that, lots of options. After you "open the box and read the directions" you begin to learn how to use your Google effectively. Just how does one become effective with Google?

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association's March 12, 2016 event featuring Lisa Louise Cooke finally took place on June 11th. One of Lisa's four presentations that day was entitled "Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries." I wish you could have been there. Lucky for you, I was there!

Where to begin? Lisa is an excellent presenter and an expert on all thing Google. You and I both know that Lisa is not the only Genealogy Google expert, but how many do you need? You can read her book, *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox* and / or visit Lisa's [GenealogyGems.com](#) website. The website is free and there is also a Premium Membership (\$39.95) which includes much more learning. You can find several YouTube videos about how to use Google for genealogy. Some are old, some are new, some are good, and some maybe not? It is your time and your money, so you have to decide. Let me point out, Google changes the rules constantly. You really want to learn from the most up-to-date source. Rest assured, I do NOT receive a commission from Lisa!!!

I do want to share two things I learned from her presentation that I think you should know. Google has "search operators" and your free Google account allows you to set "Google Alerts."

The "search operators" are:

Quotations Marks: Use quotations marks around a word or phrase to ensure that word or phrase will appear in every result.

Leveraging Google *continued*

OR: Use this option to give Google options like “Bob Brown” OR “Brown, Bob” (Some website will have your ancestor in a list with surname first)

AROUND: Use AROUND to force the search to include results where two terms are within a specified number of words on the page. *Robert AROUND(2) Mann* would retrieve results where Robert and Mann are within 2 words.

Asterisk (*): Hold the place of a character in the search, like “Robert * Mann”

Minus Sign (-): Removes unwanted words or phrases from the search results.

Example: *Robert E. Lee -president.*

Numrange (..): Ensures all the results will contain a year that falls within the range.

Example *1860..1870*

Now why do you need to know about Google Alerts? Almost every day a page is added to the vast ocean where you are fishing for data. Really, it is more like thousands of pages are added each day. The search you performed yesterday missed the pages that were added last night. Really? Oh yes, really! Embrace GOOGLE ALERTS. You can save a particular search and tell Google to run it again periodically, like every week. That will save you some time.

Happy and effective Googling to you.

Record Retention—Important to All

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

We often talk about preserving documents. A large part of knowing what to preserve and for how long (in perpetuity, for 10 years, or what duration), comes from a record retention policy.

Every household, has an explicit or implicit policy about what records to retain. Do you keep your tax files? car maintenance documents? medical files? birthday cards, newspaper clippings, etc. Do you throw out and/or shred credit card slips, bills, etc. Every time you make a decision to keep or throw out/destroy documents you are implementing (or not) a policy regarding what records you retain.

The same happens in government offices, corporate offices, and in any place where paper is generated and/or received (as well as digital files, and other media formats). And, obviously, in archives and libraries and other repositories who are in the business of collecting records.

SO, we ALL need to think about records retention. We ALL also need to appreciate records retention as often such a policy determines why we might NOT find some of the records we seek.

This all came to mind when reading [A Beginners Guide to Record Retention](#) (posted by the Library of Congress).

Google search on “Records retention” and archives and you will see many entries for the various state archives (NY, WA, UT, NC, OR, and AZ showed up on the top of my search list). Search on the same except substitute libraries and I came across Library of Virginia, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, etc.

University Records also fall under records retention schedules, as well as local government entities, and more. Again, if records are created, there is a very good chance that there is a records retention policy in place. Sometimes these are to meet legal requirements, sometimes to meet technical needs, and sometimes the needs of the entity and/or its users. Obviously, as genealogists we like to see the preservation of documents whose “function” may have been served years, decades or centuries ago, and yet are of interest to us.

Record Retention—Important to All *continued*

Often though, these desires have to “realistically” be balanced with storage space and other factors. Ultimately, we CANNOT keep everything and we do try to judiciously keep what we think will have perpetual value.

If you have a personal “record retention” policy - what are some of its elements?

What advice would you give to those looking to create a personal “record retention” policy?

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Since we are talking about archiving, check out this Library of Congress May 11, 2016 posting, *Your Personal Archiving Project: Where Do You Start?* By Mike Ashenfelder.

Administrative Stuff

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

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