



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 11, No. 9, September, 2016

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

2016 AGS Family History Writing Contest Winners

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has published a quarterly journal, the Arkansas Family Historian, since 1962. The past issues of our quarterly, through 2009, are available on the [AGS website](#). The content over the years has been contributed by various Arkansas Genealogical Society members. Let me encourage you to review a few of the past issues. You may find some records useful to your research.

As an example, here are the articles in the March 2009 issue:

MILLER FAMILY GRAVEYARD BY HOG TUSK CREEK IN MORO, LEE COUNTY, ARKANSAS: PART 1 by William Ramer Smith, Ph.D.

NAMES OF INMATES: MASONIC HOME, BATESVILLE, INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, 1910-1947 by Betty Clayton

2008 CALIFORNIA DEATHS OF ARKANSANS by Mildred Tatum

OUACHITA COUNTY 1867 VOTER LISTS: CAROUSE, CANEY, AND TREMONT PRECINCTS by Rebecca Wilson

LADY JURORS OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS by Gloria Futrell

Our current editor, Russel Baker, writes, in the Spring 2016 issue, "We can only do this through your continued patronage and support. Why not send us some information on your Arkansas family roots for possible inclusion in the future issues?" Well, why not!

The winners of the 2016 AGS Family History Writing Contest Winners will be announced at the AGS 2016 Fall Seminar in Benton, Arkansas.

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 —

The August 18, 2016, article in the Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter titled [*Plan to Leave Your Digital Assets in Your Will*](#) is worth a look. Dick has a link in the article to an article by Andrea Coombes in MarketWatch.

[*National Geographic’s Free Website for Printing Detailed Topographical Maps*](#), also in the EOGN.

You might learn from 5 [*hidden Questions in the U.S. Federal Census*](#) on the Ancestry Blog.

Board for Certification of Genealogists [*SpringBoard*](#), a website with access to BCG Webinars. A quote from the blog: “The Board of Certification of Genealogists is pleased to offer videos of our popular webinar series. Some are free. Most are available to view or purchase for a reasonable fee.”

Coming Events

September 2, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [Sandwiching in History](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at the Barth-Hempling House, 501 Main St., North Little Rock, Arkansas.

September 9-10, 2016

The 2016 Ozarks Genealogical Society Fall Conference will be held at the University Plaza Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri. Email: Conference@ozarksgs.org. Website: www.ozarksgs.org. Phone: 417-844-2210. See page 7 for more details.

September 10, 2016

Arkansas foodways symposium from 10 a.m until 3 p.m. at the Pulaski Technical College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute in Little Rock. See page 18.

September 10, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be at 44 S. Main Street, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, from 11 AM to 1 PM.

September 12, 2016

Genealogy Class at the [Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#), 401 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, Arkansas. Contact Rhonda Stewart rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us for more information.

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/>. See page 8.

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 24, 2016

Genealogy 101 Workshop: Exploring Your Family Tree at the Missouri History Museum, in St. Louis Missouri. Call 314-746-4500 or visit www.mohistory.org for the information. Register early, space is limited.

September 26, 2016

Heritage Seekers meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. The program will be *Fort Roots & Camp Pike in World War I* with Sandra Taylor Smith, North Little Rock History Commission, presenting.

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 7, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's *Sandwiching in History* will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at Idlewild Park, Cedar Street and Idlewild Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Coming Events continued

October 8, 2016

Cemetery Preservation Workshop at Moscow Cemetery, Prescott, Arkansas from 9:00 to 4:00 with Rusty Brenner, of [Texas Cemetery Restoration](#). Direction to the cemetery are on the [Nevada County Depot & Museum](#) website.

October 14-15, 2016

AGS Fall Seminar with Mark Lowe will be at the Benton Convention Center again. The details are on page 19-20 and on the [AGS website](#).

October 15, 2016

Cemetery Preservation Workshop at the Brown Cemetery, Lamar, Arkansas, from 9:00 to 4:00 with Rusty Brenner of [Texas Cemetery Restoration](#).

October 15, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be at [112 E. Searcy Street, Kensett, Arkansas](#), from 11 AM to 1 PM.

October 29, 2016

Using Archival Records to Save Historic Structures from 10-2 at the North Little Rock Heritage Center put on by the Arkansas State Archives. The information should be on the [ASA website](#) around October 1st.

October 29, 2016

Beginning Genealogy Class conducted by the Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas at the Jonesboro Craighead Public Library. The website is <http://www.gscga.net/>

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.

August 21-21, 2019

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Washington, D. C.

September 2-5, 2020

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ozarks Genealogical Society Fall Conference

COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND AND ITS MIGRATIONS

The annual OGS Conference with Michael Leclerc, CG

September 9-10, 2016

The University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center

333 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy.

Springfield, Missouri.

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

\$57 (\$52 for OGS members) \$62 after August 26th.

Friday Night only includes Vendor Showcase

\$25

Pay \$3.00 additional fee for printed syllabus.

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

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

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

Find out more about the conference by following the links in the sidebar ([Click here](#) to see their website).

[Register online and pay with Paypal.](#)

[Click here to download conference brochure with registration form.](#)

VGC 2016 Fall Family History Workshop

VILLAGE GENEALOGY SOCIETY
&
AKANSA CHAPTER, NSDAR
Presents

2016 Fall Family History Workshop

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Featuring

CARI TAPLIN

Certified Genealogist, Researcher, & Speaker

Please visit Cari Taplin at www.genealogypants.com

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Coronado Center

150 Ponderosa Lane

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

Village Genealogical Website: <http://www.hsvgs.org> for the details or

Call Bill Patterson at 201-922-6965

A Request For Help

The following is provided by Karen Russ, MLS | Research and Community Engagement Librarian - Associate Professor University of Arkansas at Little Rock | Collections and Archives | Ottenheimer Library 2801 S. University Ave. | Little Rock, AR 72204. Karen is an AGS board member.

Sequoyah National Research Center (UALR) is looking for tribally-published newspaper and newsletter issues.

Our goal is to acquire the most comprehensive collection of tribally-published newspapers and newsletters. To that end, we rely on the generosity of our donors. We have begun an acquisitions push to fill in the gaps of newspapers already in our collections. Each issue, we will list some of our needs and ask that our readers donate any issues they may have and are willing to part with.

This quarter, we are looking for issues of *Menominee Nation News*. We are missing several issues prior to 2003, but these years are missing the most: 1976-1981, 1991-1993, and 2000-2002.

We are also seeking the *Fort Belknap Camp Crier*, issues April 1973-March 1975, July 1977-June 1978, and any issues after April 1979.

We are missing the following issues of the *Blackfeet Tribal News* published in Browning, Montana: May-September 1982, all issues after March 1985.

If you have questions or would like to know how to send donations to the Center, contact Erin Fehr at 501-569-8336 or ehfehr@ualr.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where Are We Headed?

The following is republished from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#). I was hesitant to republish this article, since it so long. I could have just give you a link, but I know that some would not take the time to follow the link and read Dick's article.

This article was first published as a Plus Edition article on March 7, 2012. It turned out to be a very popular article. At the suggestion of some newsletter readers, I am re-publishing it today as a Standard Edition article so that more people can read it. I have made a few minor updates to the original article as well.

Please feel free to forward this article to others or to republish it anywhere you please for non-commercial purposes. There is no need to ask for permission; "just do it."

NOTE: This article contains several personal opinions.

I travel a lot (I am in Auckland, New Zealand today and going to Singapore on Monday), and I spend a lot of time with officers and members of many genealogy societies. Most everywhere I go, I hear stories of societies that are shrinking in size and even a few stories of societies that are struggling to maintain their existence. Even amongst all this "doom and gloom," I do hear a few rare stories of genealogy societies that are thriving and growing larger. Not only are they attracting more members, but these few societies are also offering more and more services to their members with each passing year.

Why do the majority of societies flounder while a handful succeed?

I hear all sorts of "reasons" why societies are shrinking these days. I suspect many are not true reasons but are merely "shoot from the hip" excuses offered with no statistics or research to back them up. Common excuses include, "It's competition from the Internet" or, "It's the economy" or, "People just aren't interested anymore."

To be sure, competition and economic difficulties and even lack of interest exist everywhere. If society members and officers do nothing to offset these factors, inertia sets in, and societies suffer. However, these factors affect all societies. The question persists: why is it that some societies thrive and even expand while others are shrinking?

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

I think the answer is a combination of many factors. However, some of the causes and perhaps even a few of the solutions become obvious when we look at history. Our ancestors witnessed and perhaps participated in similar problems years ago in other industries. Indeed, in recent years, even those of us alive today have seen similar declines and occasional reversals in a number of business endeavors. Perhaps the answer to the future growth of your genealogy society may be found by first looking back at the history of similar problems in other fields of endeavor.

Here is the first question to ponder: What happened to all the railroads in North America?

In the 1800s the railroad industry in the U.S. was a growth business. In some ways it was like today's Internet businesses. Consumers couldn't get enough of the railroads' "product:" convenient and easy travel. People traveled to places they never visited before, even if only to visit relatives in another state. Corporations also rushed to send their products by rail because it was cost-effective to do so. Farmers sent their products to distant markets that had previously been impossible to reach. The economy improved for farmers and for corporations, and the money then "trickled down" into almost all other businesses. The country flourished, in part because of the railroads.

Most every year, inventors created newer and more efficient locomotives. First it was steam, then it was petrol, then diesel. Times were good, and America had a bright, rail-based future.

So what happened? Why isn't North America blanketed in rail routes today? Why doesn't everyone commute to work on the railroad?

Today, the railroad companies are a shell of what they once were. Why? Because automobiles and trucks came along and ran the railroads into the ground.

Senior managers at railroad companies seemed to believe "we are in the railroad business." In fact, they were really in the transportation business, but few executives realized that. A very few railroads expanded over the years into bus lines, trucking companies, and allied transportation businesses.

One company provides a perfect example: Railway Express. This company specialized in brokering and delivering railroad freight, mostly smaller packages that required much less than a full box car for transportation. This was a "railroad company" that eventually was driven to bankruptcy by a newer company that saw the true business was delivering packages (parcels) by whatever means made sense: United Parcel Service. The new company, usually called "UPS," seems to have done quite well by delivering packages by rail, truck, and airline. In short, the company succeeded nicely by doing exactly what the older company

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

had done except for one major difference: the new company did not limit its services by calling themselves a railroad company, but by calling themselves a freight delivery company and then by doing “whatever it takes” to serve the customers.

The overwhelming majority of railroad companies tried to remain just that: railroad companies. Then they wondered, “What happened to all the customers?”

Let’s fast-forward a few years and look at another business: newspapers.

Again, newspapers used to be multi-million dollar businesses that most everyone respected. They were the primary sources of news and information for most citizens. A very common question was, “Have you seen the paper today?” When was the last time anyone asked you that question?

The newspaper business was almost an exact repeat of the railroad business. New competition arose from radio, television, the Internet, and a host of small electronic devices. Even bloggers are competition to newspapers. Generally speaking, the new competition has been cheaper, faster, and much more flexible, able to change quickly to meet customers’ demands.

The result was predictable: stodgy, old newspaper companies with inflexible management started losing business. Customers abandoned those companies where management said, “We are in the newspaper business.” Yet a few forward-thinking managers said, “We are in the news and information business,” and they survived by adopting the methods of their new competitors. A very small number of newspapers, such as USA Today, adopted modern business methods and built upon their strengths: dozens of reporters, editors, advertising departments, and more. They built multi-media organizations capable of delivering news and entertainment to their customers, wherever and whenever those customers want it.

I will suggest that it makes no difference how a news story is delivered to a customer. One (slow) method is to print it on paper and send it out via overnight trucks to be sold in stores and newsstands. Another is to broadcast the same story on radio and television. Perhaps still better is to place the story on a web site where customers can retrieve it whenever they wish. Another option is to build the story into an RSS newsfeed where customers can access it via a newsreader. Better still, if the customer has a strong interest in some topic (sports, financial news, or most anything else), PUSH that information as it becomes available to the customer’s smart phone that is on his hip or in her purse.

Executives who think they are “in the newspaper business” will fail. In fact, the PRODUCT is news and information, and that is important. The DELIVERY METHOD might be paper or broadcast media or Internet. I

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

will suggest that delivery methods are important, but never as important as the product. The product is INFORMATION, and companies in the information business have a better chance of survival than those companies that believe they are in the newspaper business.

Let's look at a third example: Computers

This story has a very different ending. Apple started in the computer business 30 years ago at about the same time as did Microsoft and a few dozen other personal computer companies. Some built hardware; a few created software. A very few, including Apple, tried to do both. In fact, Apple floundered for a few years as the company's managers tried to become the best and most successful computer company in the industry. By most standards of measurement, the Apple executives failed. Sales were down and continued to drop every year. At one time, Apple was close to bankruptcy.

Apple's board of directors then re-hired Steve Jobs. He was a founder of the company but later left to pursue other opportunities. Newly-re-hired Steve Jobs was given one objective: turn the company around. He was given a free rein to do whatever he thought was best.

The rest is history.

Even today, Apple does not build as many personal computers as some of its competitors and does not produce as much software as its biggest competitor. Yet Apple is now more profitable than any other company, even more profitable than Microsoft. In fact, Apple now has the highest corporate valuation IN HISTORY.

How is this possible? There are a number of reasons, but the biggest seems to be that Apple stopped being a computer company years ago. Instead, Apple is now the world's leading PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY.

To be sure, Apple does make a significant amount of income from sales of personal computers. However, that revenue is not as big as the money derived from the sales of personal music players, cell phones, and tablet devices. Apple also produces devices to stream movies and television programs across the Internet. The same company even manufactures and sells battery chargers. Indeed, this is no longer a computer company.

Apple failed as a personal computer company, but it became wildly successful as a personal technology company.

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

Better than any other tech company, Apple paid attention to the trends of what consumers want, and they've never been afraid to experiment with other products. Some of those products failed miserably, but others succeeded far beyond anyone's expectations. The result is the most profitable company in the industry with more money in the bank than the gross national products of many countries.

The railroad moguls of days past said, "We're in the railroad business!" when they should have been saying, "We're in the transportation business." Newspaper managers used to say they ran newspaper companies when they should have been managing news and entertainment companies.

Steve Jobs and Apple got this right by saying, "We're not a personal computer company; we're a technology company."

So what does this mean for your genealogy society?

Are they societies, or are they providers of genealogy information and education and other services?

First, let's stop calling them "societies." That is a very narrow term that encourages members and officers alike to narrow their focus. We need to look at a bigger picture. Perhaps we should call them "genealogy organizations" or invent some other term that better describes the myriad of services possible. Such services can include:

1. Education
2. Publishing (on paper as well as electronic publishing)
3. Travel services to local and distant repositories or even to "the old country"
4. Lobbying services
5. Fraternal organization services, somewhat like the Elks or Lions or Masons or other fraternities and sororities, all working towards common public service goals
6. And perhaps the most important of all: entertainment

Probably not all genealogy organizations need to perform all of these activities, but I will suggest that most organizations need to perform at least several of the above. Like Steve Jobs' experiences at Apple, some of these services will flounder and become miserable failures. Chalk those up as "learning experiences." All you want is to make sure that enough of your organization's efforts succeed and generate enough revenue to help sustain the organization.

Most societies already perform educational activities for members and sometimes for non-members. All

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

we can do is to expand this. Perhaps societies should be holding classes and information sessions for the general public. How about establishing scholarships for local high school seniors planning to pursue studies in history or allied fields?

Publishing is performed by many societies today although often is limited to small booklets that are published only on paper and are not well advertised nationwide. Yet today's technology allows for electronic publishing at far lower costs than older methods of printing books. Shouldn't we be placing all genealogy publications online and making them available to anyone and everyone worldwide for a modest fee? Or will we continue to act like newspapers?

Travel services can be a major service for members. How many of your organization's members have ever visited the state historical society's library? Or a nearby university's archives? Organize a trip! A trip doesn't always have to involve airfare to distant locations; a local visit can be just as valuable for members and non-members alike.

Lobbying is perhaps one of the greatest needs of genealogy organizations today. We are under constant pressure from well-meaning, but ignorant, legislators to limit access to the very records we depend upon. Genealogy organizations need to make sure that legislators understand that identity theft is not a factor when looking at death records from many years ago. In short, we need to lobby!

Speaking of members, do services have to be restricted to members? Why not make all services available to the general public? Sure, you might offer a discount to members, but restricting items "as a benefit of membership" rarely benefits anyone. By restricting services to members, all the society is doing is locking out potential new members and others who may have a casual interest in genealogy. The best advertising to attract new members is to let non-members use the organization's present services, although perhaps at a slightly higher price than what members pay. Some of these "outsiders" will be motivated to join. The remainder at least will have added to the organization's treasury.

As proven recently by the television networks, genealogy is also "entertainment." Yes, we are in the entertainment business, whether we realize it or not. Let's entertain our members and especially let's entertain our potential future members!

The above list only "scratches the surface." I am sure you and your associates can create a longer list of worthwhile activities. We need to exist, thrive, and even grow in a high tech world of instant communications and collaboration. We cannot sit back and complain of "competition from the Internet." Instead, we

Where Are We Headed? *continued*

need to embrace the Internet and every other form of technology and use all these tools to further our own interests.

My prediction:

Many genealogy societies will continue to shrink and will eventually die. Genealogy “organizations” with a broad outlook and a willingness to experiment with new methods of delivering services will expand and become influencers within the genealogy world.

Where will you and your society fit into all of this?

Arkansas State Archives Press Release

Little Rock - On Aug. 5, Dr. Lisa Speer, director of the Arkansas State Archives and state historian, was elected to the Council of State Archivists' (CoSA) Board of Directors, a term lasting three years. She will also serve as co-chair of the Program Committee for the 2017 CoSA-NAGARA Annual Meeting in Boise and is a member of the CoSA Education and Training Committee.

The Council of State Archivists was established as a national non-profit in 2002. It facilitates networking and project collaboration among the 50 state archives, five territorial archives and the District of Columbia archives. The organization is governed by a nine member Board of Directors elected by members. Its mission is "to strengthen state and territorial archives in their work to preserve America's historical records."

Patricia Smith Mansfield, director of the Utah State Archives, said about Speer's election, "With her broad educational background in American history and library and information science, Lisa Speer brings a wealth of experience to the Council of State Archivists. The board is pleased to have her as a new board member and looks forward to her contributing to our success."

"We are so lucky to have Dr. Speer and her talents leading the way here in Arkansas to archive our history and heritage," said Stacy Hurst, director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. "It's a testament to her knowledge and skills that she has been chosen to share her abilities on a national level."

Dr. Speer holds a BA in history from Ouachita Baptist University, an MA and PhD in American history from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Library and information studies from the University of Alabama. She has worked as the interim curator of the Mississippi Collection in the collection at the University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections, an archival technician at the University of Alabama's William Stanley Hoole Library, and, an archival technician at the W.S. Hoole Library and directed the Special Collections and Archives at Southeast Missouri State University for over 12 years. Dr. Speer was hired as director of the Arkansas State Archives in June 2013.

Arkansas State Archives Symposium

Little Rock - The [Arkansas State Archives](#) will be hosting its third annual Arkansas foodways symposium from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Pulaski Technical College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute in Little Rock. The symposium's theme, "Southern Fried Schnitzel: German Food and Culture in Arkansas," will feature presentations by Shirley Schuette, Leah Lambert, Kathleen Condray, Tim Nutt, and State Archives staff member Terra Titsworth.

Topics will include German style beer brewing in Arkansas, a history of early Germans in Little Rock, German foodways history in Arkansas, as well as anecdotes and stories about German food and its importance in Arkansas history and culture. The day will conclude with a cooking presentation by professionally trained chef Terra Titsworth, formerly of the Packett House, who will be preparing a traditional meal from Lichtenstein, a German-speaking principality in Europe. Tim Nutt will share anecdotes about his experiences as a traveler in the country during the demonstration.

The seminar is free but registration is required. Check-in will begin at 9 a.m. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. A German fare lunch prepared by the Culinary Institute chefs and a beer tasting will be provided for symposium participants at no charge. Registration is limited and deadline for registration will be Sept. 6, so be sure to make reservations soon.

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 Arkansas Regional Archives is located in Washington.

For more information about the symposium or to register, contact us at events.archives@arkansas.gov or call us at 501-682-6900.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Interviewing Tip

The following is from Curt B. Witcher's article in *Genealogy Gems: News from Fort Wayne Library*, No 149.

An important part of discovering and telling our stories can be interviewing living relatives and those who are still living who knew our ancestors first-hand. Many books and even more articles have been written on best practices and successful strategies for interviewing and conducting oral history programs. I typically believe the best methods are the simple ones. The TED talk linked below, "Ten Ways to Have a Better Conversation," by Celeste Headlee is one of the best videos I have seen on how to do interviewing well. Ms. Headlee is a professional interviewer, and provides ten basic, very useful tips on having a conversation—on doing an interview.

<http://www.dailygood.org/story/1268/10-ways-to-have-a-better-conversation-ted-com/>

Her ten tips are below.

1. Don't multi-task.
2. Don't pontificate.
3. Use open-ended questions.
4. Go with the flow.
5. If you don't know, say that you don't know.
6. Don't equate your experience with theirs.
7. Try not to repeat yourself.
8. Stay out of the weeds.
9. Listen.
10. Be brief.

Begin the conversation! You'll be glad you did.

AGS Fall Seminar Program

Fall Seminar Program

Friday, October 14, 2016

Both Presentations by Jeff Meek

5:00PM **Registration (Vendors Open 5:00PM - 9:00PM)**

6:00PM **Library of Congress Veterans History Project** - An overview of the Library of Congress program that is creating an archive of interviews with veterans of the branches of the US military.

7:00PM **Break**

7:30PM **My Experiences Interviewing Veterans for the Project** - Join Jeff for stories about how he became involved and a look at some of the interviews he has contributed to the Project, including some of the videos of interviews.

AGS Fall Seminar Program *continued*

Saturday, October 15, 2016

All Presentations by J. Mark Lowe

8:00AM **Registration (Vendors Open 8:00AM - 3:00PM)**

9:00AM **Don't Count Me Out: Finding Estate Settlements (Including Insolvents)** - Keep listening even when your ancestors don't have enough property to pay their outstanding debt at death. Learn how estates are handled when insolvent; how to use in your research; and where to locate them.

10:00AM **Break**

10:30AM **Taxes Rule the World: Property, Poll, AdValorem, Permission** - Following your Ancestors paying taxes may be the answer to your research problems. Learn to use their delay in paying as a tool to finding those pesky family members. Tax records can tell us much more than about property. (Using Delinquent Tax Lists and Release Books)

11:30AM **Lunch**

1:00PM **AGS Annual Meeting**

1:30PM **The Migration Triangle: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee** - Discover what prompted our ancestors to follow the Migration Triangle and continue westward. Learn the paths they followed and the process for finding those elusive travelers.

2:30PM **Break**

3:00PM **Is It Really Online? How to Find and Use Authentic Sources at Home or in the Library** - Take advantage of new online resources while developing your research skills. Learn about simple techniques that can improve your methodology and accomplishment.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To IdeasForAGS@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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