



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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WHY

Today a Google search yielded 13,200,000 results to the question “why genealogy is important.” You know your reasons and I know mine. Or, do we? Or, do we need to know?

The article, *Why Genealogy Is Important*, on [GenealogyInTime Magazine](#) is what triggered this article. GIT Magazine is a website, genealogy search engine, Family Tree search engine, and informational source. The article is lengthy, but the basic statement at the beginning is:

Genealogy is a curiosity for most, a hobby for many and an obsession for some. In this article we look at the practical and philosophical reasons that motivate people to spend time researching their ancestors.

Three *boxes* seems to be a reasonable approach. In reality, there are as many *boxes* as there are genealogists, or almost. Where do you fit? You “know”, somewhere inside, why you are a genealogist. In my opinion, you should define it for yourself. Say it out loud. That will help you focus on your goal.

My goal is the story, the life, and the relationships. I like to get to know people now. I also want to get to know my ancestors, as much as possible. I do the lineage research so I know who my ancestors really are. Once I know I am looking at the correct person, I delve into the person and his life.

Here are three more links which address the WHY:

[Root Search](#), [Heritage Consulting](#), and [APlaceforMom](#).

Did I mention the AGS Fall Seminar? See pages 16 & 17.

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 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides History and Genealogy Webinars. *“The USCIS Historical Research Branch offers several webinars for beginner and advanced researchers. They are an easy and free way to learn about the USCIS history, library, and genealogy programs and services from agency historians, librarians and program representatives. We invite you to view our upcoming schedule below.”* Click [Here](#) to go to the site.

You will probably find something on [One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse](#), useful to you. Mr. Morse writes *“This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications. Some of these tools fetch data from other websites but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided on those websites.”* There are also educational articles on his website.

How about attending a genealogy fair in your jammies? The National Archives (NARA) is again hosting a Virtual Genealogy Fair October 26-27 (Wednesday & Thursday). Registration is not required. You can learn the details at <http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/>.

Here is more. The Southern California Genealogical Society presents free live Webinar Sessions. They are free to everyone and the archives are free to SCGS members(\$35 per year). You can read about them on the [SCGS website](#) in the “News from the Blogs & the world of genealogy” section.

Coming Events

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.

October 8, 2016

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

October 10, 2016

Genealogy Class at the [Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#), 401 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, Arkansas from 3:30 to 5:00. Contact Rhonda Stewart rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us for more information.

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.

Coming Events continued

October 24, 2016

[Heritage Seekers](#) meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. The program will be *A State of Perfect Anarchy: The End of the Civil War in Arkansas*, presented by Mark Christ, Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission.

October 26–27, 2016

[National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair](#).

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/>

November 2, 2016

Legacies & Lunch: Judge Morris Arnold, 12:00 noon, at the [Butler Center For Arkansas Studys](#), main library Dar-
ragh Center, 100 Rock St. Little Rock, Arkansas. An illustrated talk describing all classes of eighteenth-century
Arkansas women, from the elite wives and daughters of military commandants who had connections to the roy-
al court at Versailles to the captive Indian and white women who were the objects of sexual trafficking.

November 4, 2016.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [Sandwiching in History](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at the John F.
Weinmann House, 2214 S. Battery Street, Little Rock, Arkansas

Coming Events continued

November 5, 2016

[Tennessee Genealogical Society Seminar](#) will be in Germantown, TN. The speaker will be Thomas MacEntee, a genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media. Germantown is Southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, about 160 miles from Little Rock.

November 12, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be from 11 AM to 1 PM at Downtown Brinkley, 100 W. Cypress Street, Brinkley, Arkansas.

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 23-28, 2017

[The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#) (IGHR) will be at the Georgia Center's UGA and Hotel Conference Center.

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.

Coming Events continued

June 2–7, 2018

[The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#) (IGHR) will be at the Georgia Center's UGA and Hotel Conference Center.

August 30-September 2, 2017

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

August 22-25, 2018

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

August 21-24, 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.

New Craighead County Records On Line

The following announcement was in the September issue of the Brickwall Gazette from the Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas

Craighead County Marriage Records Going Online

The Craighead County Clerk's Office has announced a new addition to their services.

Marriage records for the Western District of Craighead County are available online for public search. Records for the Eastern District are expected to be available by the end of the year. Images are only attached to a few records at this point. However, this a work in progress and images will continue to be uploaded over the coming months.

Go to www.craigheadcounty.org/, scroll down to "Recent Updates" on the left side and click on the link for the Online Marriage License Search. Then click on the link just above the image of the County Clerk or use this link <http://marriage.cisarkansas.com/?C=Craighead>.

Announcing a Crowdsourcing Project

On June 21, 2016, the Huntington Library announced the launch of a crowdsourcing project to transcribe and decode U. S. Civil War telegrams. The following quote is taken from the Huntington Library website. There is a full article on the [Huntington Library](#) website. If you need more to read, the August 19, 2016 issue of the [L. A. Times](#) has a long article about this.

The Huntington acquired the exceptionally rare collection of telegrams in 2012, composed of a nearly complete archive of Thomas T. Eckert, the head of the military telegraph office of the War Department under Lincoln. The archive was thought to have been destroyed after the war and includes crucial correspondence that has never been published. Among the materials are 35 manuscript ledger books of telegrams sent and received by the War Department, including more than 100 communiques from Lincoln himself. Also included are top-secret cipher books revealing the complex coding system used to encrypt and decipher messages. The Confederate Army never cracked the Union Army's code.

Thanks to Karen Russ, Research and Community Engagement Librarian—Associate Professor for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Karen is also an AGS board member and officer.

Historic Map Works

Republished from *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library*, No. 148, June 30, 2016

Historic Map Works
by Cynthia Theusch

Recently, I was searching for historic maps from where my ancestors lived in Gratiot County Michigan, and came across a new website of plat maps entitled “Historic Map Works, Residential Genealogy” (<http://www.historicmapworks.com/>). The site has over one million historic maps and images. You are able to browse or search a historic digital map database of North America and the world.

When using this website, you can view the entire county plat map for a particular year. When you click on that map, you will see images of the townships. Just above the images are two tabs, Map and Directories.

By clicking the Directories, you will get images of all pages within the plat book. The directories list patrons or subscribers who help offset the cost of printing the atlas.

Upon viewing the 1889 map for Gratiot County, I located some ancestors and other family members who owned land in Arcadia, Pine River, and Seville townships. The best find was locating the estate of my second great-grandfather, J. Ludwig Muhn, in Arcadia Township. Ludwig died in September 1865 on his way home from the Civil War (he was discharged in Little Rock, Arkansas). Approximately twenty-four years later, his estate had not been settled.

Another find in the 1889 map for Seville Township (Gratiot County) was Ludwig Muhn’s brother-in-law, Michael Koffenberger. He owned 50 acres, and the plat map showed where his saw mill and home were located. Koffenberger paid to have his name added to the Directory of Patrons, and it included his name (M. Koffenberger), post office (St. Louis), occupation (Farmer and Saw Mill), nativity (Germany), and the year he settled in county (1864).

Historic Map Works *continued*

The Historic Map Works Residential Genealogy is designed for individuals, offering three options for membership with three payment choices. The first option is free with a Basic Pay-Per-Use print and download cost. The second has a monthly charge of \$29.99 with limited print and download capability. The third option includes a yearly fee of \$124.99 and allows users to download unlimited watermarked prints. The “Membership Benefits and Pricing” chart can be found at <http://dns1.historicmapworks.com/MemberDetails.php>. Another option is to purchase the image license.

This web site is a wonderful resource for locating where your ancestors lived and how much land they owned. By viewing maps from various dates, you can compare and document changes in these holdings.

The Melting Pot Genealogical Society

MPGS Celebrates 40 Years of Finding One More Relative!

The [Melting Pot Genealogical Society](#) was organized in September 1976 by Ms. Inez Cline and others. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the assimilation and preservation of historical and genealogical documents. We publish an annual journal, The Kettle, and other books of genealogical significance to Garland County, Arkansas. We maintain a genealogy reference library of over 6,000 volumes, historical journals, microfilm, and microfiche.

The Melting Pot is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are continually adding to our collections of genealogy materials. All donations including books, supply items or cash are tax deductible. See our Wish List page for donation ideas.

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in genealogy. Members receive a monthly newsletter and one copy per family of the annual periodical, The Kettle, as well as the privilege of checking out books from the library. Annual dues are \$25.00, which includes both husband and wife, plus an additional \$4.00 for postage cost if the member cannot pick up their copy of The Kettle.

The MPGS provides several services to the public. Obituary copies can be ordered for a fee. Check out the Obituaries page for pricing and instructions. Society members also provide surname research as requested. The current fee is \$50 per family/surname line. A printed report is provided. Research does not extend outside of the USA. Additional fees may be incurred if copies of certificates are required. Contact the librarian for details.

The MPGS meets on the fourth Tuesday at 12:30 pm at the MPGS Library in every month in September through December and March through June. The public is invited to all meetings. We meet at 649-B Ouachita Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901. Our phone is (501) 624-0229

Have you written a Family History?

The MPGS would like to include your family history in our library either in book form, descendant's reports, or pedigree charts. Contact the Librarian.

The MPGS Library reading room is open to the public from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm each Monday and Friday. More can be found on the library information page.

Tacoma Pauper Cemetery Records Online

The following is republished from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#), September 6, 2016

What was the Pierce County, Washington, pauper cemetery is now a forgotten memory. More than 1,600 people are buried there, all laid to rest between the 1880s and 1920s. Researchers say either the county never kept a record of the burials or lost it, possibly in a fire.

If not for a curious funeral director who started six years ago to collect the names of the dead, they would remain hidden in handwritten ledgers kept by individual funeral homes across Tacoma. Bill Habermann entered the names on [a genealogy website, along with other details he] tracked down [on] military records and newspaper stories about the deaths.

Then he painstakingly entered all of it into an online database at findagrave.com, along with other details from public records, so they can be found by searching historians and family members.

You can read more in an article by Karen Peterson in The News Tribune at <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article98258267.html>.

My thanks to the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society for telling me about this story.

You might be wondering, *why include a Tacoma, Washington resource in an Arkansas newsletter?* It is fairly common to find an ancestor who migrated to the state of Washington, I have ancestors who did and you may as well.

Preservation Quick-Tip

Republished from *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library*, No. 148, August 31, 2016

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation--A Review of Brief Tips

A brief review of basic preservation tips may look like the following.

Consistency is king! One may not be able to provide the perfect environment for one's physical documents perfect temperature and humidity. The most important thing, though, is consistency—avoiding dramatic swings in temperature and humidity.

Walk! Don't run! Whenever cleaning or repairing a document, remember the advice we see in the form of signs at swimming pools: "Walk! Don't run!" Take your time. If you don't think you have enough time to do the repair well, postpone it until you do. A hasty repair will almost always be a poor repair, and many times one you will deeply regret as the repair might actually harm your document.

Don't do what can't be undone. A good litmus test for any type of work done to a document is to ask, "Can this task be easily undone without damage to the document?" For example, lamination cannot easily be undone without severe damage to the original document; don't do it. Encapsulation can easily be undone--it's alright to engage in the process.

FGS Conference Report

Ginney Pumphrey, Brenda Veerhusen, Mary Evans, and I attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies September Conference in Springfield, Illinois. I got the impression that we all enjoyed the event. Ginney, our FGS delegate, so kindly provided the following report. THANK YOU Ginney!

The FGS Conference

By Ginney Pumphrey

How do you choose? Eight different sessions every hour and a half for three days - all presented by top national and international genealogical speakers plus many different presentations by vendors in the exhibit hall. Topics included skill building, ethnic research, regional topics and DNA. What a wonderful dilemma to have.

Some of my personal highlights were a session by Chris Paton a genealogist from Scotland who spoke about how Scotland's religious changes from the Reformation in 1560 to the beginning of civil registration in 1855 affected records and record keeping. Also a session presented by Craig Scott on the records of The French and Indian War was very interesting. These wars were fought prior to the Revolutionary War and since there was no United States federal government at the time there are no records at NARA. The records of these conflicts and the soldiers who participated are often found in state archives. Another interesting presenter was Carol Baxter from Australia. She is an author who writes true crime thrillers and does extensive research. One of her topics was about separating fact from fiction in which she talked about evidence analysis. In another session Ms. Baxter talked about finding your ancestor's surname when that ancestor lived in a time when surnames were not written words but were a group of sounds spoken by one and heard by another and sometimes written down.

Some exciting news from the conference was that due to an anonymous donor's contribution of \$500,000 and matching funds from Ancestry the fund raising goal of the Preserve the Pensions Campaign has been met. This will digitize and index the pensions from the War of 1812 and they will be available for free forever.

FGS announced a new project that will be a partnership with the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park to build a database of more than 130,000 soldiers of the US - Mexican War and to digitize documents and unit histories.

If you've never attended a national conference I would encourage you to do so. The opportunity to learn from a variety of excellent speakers plus meet others who are interested in genealogy and history is valuable and you might even meet a cousin.

Native American Short Stories

NATIVE AMERICAN SHORT STORIES INTO A NEW BOOK

“Lone Elk shares his experiences and thoughts on the world today from a spiritual view point. Through these short stories you will find wisdom that has stood the test of times.

May you glean some truths for your path.”

Author Dale Lone Elk Casteel recently released a new book, *Trails-Dreams-Events of Lone Elk*. Casteel is also the author of *The Trail That I Traveled*, *The Greatest Race*, *Great Words of Wisdom From the First Native People*, and *The Native People of Turtle Island*.

Trails-Dreams-Events of Lone Elk (ISBN: 978-193461016X), released on July 14, 2016, was published by Blue-water Publications. It is a collection of short stories that Casteel submitted to newspapers and magazines over a period of several years. The themes of the short stories vary, but most center around Native American history, as well as tales from Casteel’s own life.

Casteel will be in attendance at two upcoming Alabama events—the 19th Annual Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Festival and Pow Wow on September 24 in Cullman and the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention on October 6-8 in Athens.

To purchase *Trails-Dreams-Events of Lone Elk*, or any of Casteel’s other publications, visit amazon.com.

Thanks to The Melting Pot Genealogical Society for this notice.

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 the estate records 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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