



Johnny Mann, editor  
George Mitchell, list manager

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## THE START OF HUNTING SEASON

We are talking people, not animals. The weather will begin to moderate and the genealogy events will become more plentiful. Take a look at the *Coming Events* section of this issue. May I suggest that you “seasoned” researchers go back to the beginning. Refreshing your mind with what you have learned in the past can’t be harmful and, in my opinion, will be helpful to you this hunting season.

How about FREE? FamilySearch is not the first place I usually go, since I have an Ancestry.com membership. A recent email from FamilySearch caused me to visit their Blog, and I am glad. It is a good place to review the basics. Here is the link to the Blog’s [Archives for Tips and Tricks](#), and here are a few of the topics you will find.

*Getting Started with Family History*

*Beginning Genealogy: Hot to Get Started the Right Way*

*Family History Apps for Beginners*

*Do You Have Your Great-Great-Great-Grandfather’s Nose?*

*Four Tips for Sleuthing in Cemeteries for Your Ancestors*

*5 Simple Habits to Keep Your Photos Organized*

It’s time to get started!

### 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 —

Hotel reservations are open for the [FGS 2017 Conference](#), August 30 to September 2, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Two conference hotels conveniently located near the David L. Lawrence Convention Center are offering reduced rates to conference attendees. Conference rates are available at both hotels Wednesday, August 23, to Friday, September 8 (subject to availability). Follow the link above to the FGS website for information and links to the hotels.

[The Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club](#) will be throwing themselves a party to celebrate turning 40. Way to go Heritage Seekers!

[GenealogyInTime Magazine](#) is a good place to learn about new genealogy record sets as they become available. You can subscribe to their free newsletter there.

Gary L. Pinkerton has recently published a book titled Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas From The North. You may read about it and order a copy on his website, [www.trammelstrace.org](http://www.trammelstrace.org).

Need some help writing your family history? Here is a link to a piece by [Lisa A. Alzo](#), M.F.A. entitled *Write Your Family History Step by Step*.

## Coming Events

February 4, 2017

The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas State Archives will be hosting a symposium on Sat., Feb. 4, at its sister agency, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. See page 15.

February 13 2017

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@cal.lib.ar.us](mailto:rstewart@cal.lib.ar.us) for more information.

February 16, 2017

The Saline County History & Heritage Society will present a program on the *History of the Benton Civitan Club* 7:00 pm at 123 North Market Street, Benton Arkansas. Call the Archives and Family History Research Center at (501) 778-3770 for more information.

February 27, 2017

[Heritage Seekers](#) meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. Chris Stewart of the Butler Center will present a topic to be determined.

March 2-4, 2014

The 2017 TSHA ([Texas State Historical Association](#)) Annual meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Houston. Online registration ends on February 20th. You can find out more and register at their website by clicking on the link in this notice.

March 3, 2017

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [Sandwiching in History](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at the Old Central Fire Station, 506 E. Main St., North Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Coming Events continued

March 4, 2017

The Heritage Seekers will sponsor a Genealogy Research Day at the Butler Center.

March 11, 2014

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be in Downtown Jonesboro, Arkansas from 11 AM to 1 PM.

March 18, 2017

The [Saline County Public Library](#), will host the annual "Genealogy For You Seminar", Judy Russell presenting.

March 21, 2017

The Butler [Center for Arkansas Studies](#), partnered with the Arkansas Genealogical Society, will host *Irish Research Ulster Historical Foundation* presentation at Hillcrest Hall, 1501 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock, Arkansas, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm .

March 27, 2017

Heritage Seekers normally meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. The program will be *Fort Smith, Judge Parker and His Marshalls* by Brenda Veerhusen of the Heritage Seekers

April 15, 2017

Gary Pinkerton will be presenting his book, "Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North" at 2:00 p.m. in the 1914 Schoolhouse in Historic Washington State Park. He will also be signing copies of his book and there will be a Q and A session after his presentation. It is hosted by the [Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives](#).

## Coming Events continued

April 20–22, 2017

*Great War, Great Changes* [Arkansas Historical Association](#) 76th Annual Conference (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

April 22, 2017

The Family History Conference of Northwest Arkansas will present *I'm Related To Who!* at 6738 Lynch Prairie Ct., Springdale, Arkansas. Register at [www.familyhistoryconfernecewa.org](http://www.familyhistoryconfernecewa.org).

May 6, 2017

The Arkansas Genealogical Society and the Arkansas State Archives will hold the Spring Workshop in Old Washington, Arkansas. The details will be available soon.

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 began December 1, 2016. Hotels began accepting reservations for the conference on June 15, 2016.

June 8-10, 2017

7th annual [Genealogy Jamboree](#) and Pioneer Day in the Historic Town of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.

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](#).

## Coming Events continued

August 5, 2017

The Heritage Seekers will sponsor a Genealogy Research Day at the Butler Center.

August 30-September 2, 2017

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

October 20-21, 2017

The Arkansas Genealogical Society 2017 Fall Conference will be at the Benton Event and Convention Center in Benton, Arkansas. D. Joshua Taylor is scheduled to present. Watch our [website!](#)

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. Call for proposals opened January 3, 2017.

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 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.

## Genealogy for You Seminar

Genealogy for You: Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist

March 13, 2017 from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library meeting room in Benton, Arkansas.



Registration began January 2, 2017 at 8:00 AM. Register at the library.

Join us to welcome the Legal Genealogist, Judy G. Russell, with a full day of seminars! (There will be a lunch break, but it will be on your own.)

- From Blackstone to the Statutes at Large: How Knowing the Law Makes Us Better Genealogists
- "Don't Forget the Ladies": A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law
- No Vitals? No Problem!: Building a Family Through Circumstantial Evidence
- Facts, Photos, and Fair Use: Copyright Law for Genealogists

Julie Syler

(501) 778 - 4766 x1301

[julies@salinecountylibrary.org](mailto:julies@salinecountylibrary.org)

## New Oklahoma vital records Website

On Monday, 9 January 2017, the Oklahoma Department of Health launched OK2Explore, a new vital records website, before a standing room only meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogy Society in Oklahoma City. The new website which can be found at <https://ok2explore.health.ok.gov/> is the result of a public agency working closely with the non-profit state genealogical society so family history researchers can now search Oklahoma vital record indices for free.

The new vital records index includes death records occurring more than 5 years ago and birth records occurring more than 20 years ago. Knowing when someone was born and died helps a genealogist differentiate people by the same name, establish a timeline for the individual, and determine in which counties additional research is needed. OGS President Mike Birdsong remarked "We certainly respect the privacy rights of living and recently deceased Oklahomans, and feel this index is a good balance between protecting privacy and researching family records."

2016 legislation authored by Representative Elise Hall and Senators David Holt and Anastasia Pittman now allows full death records to be public after 50 years and birth records to be public after 125 years. The genealogical community thanks Kelly Baker, OSDH Registrar of Vital Records for her leadership of this project which was delivered six months ahead of the deadline.

Certified copies can be ordered from the website if eligibility requirements are met.



## Arkansas WWI Memorial Trees

*The following was an email received from Carolyn Ashcraft. Thanks Carolyn.*

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

American poet Joyce Kilmer wrote those words in 1914, four years before his death in battle in France during World War One. We are now marking the 100th anniversary of the Great War, a conflict in which 71,862 Arkansans served, 2,183 died, and 1,751 suffered wounds or injuries.

## Arkansas WWI Memorial Trees *continued*

Governor Asa Hutchinson created the Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee to help guide Arkansas's remembrance of the Great War. Among the Committee's mandates are to facilitate World War I-related activities throughout the state and to encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations across the state to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of World War I.

As one of its top projects, the Committee is advocating the planting of WWI Memorial Trees around the state. There was a world-wide movement beginning in 1919 to plant trees as living memorials to the millions who lost their lives. A small grove of holly trees on the Henderson State University campus in Arkadelphia survives today as a reminder of that effort.

The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee hopes to see a WWI Memorial Tree planted in each of Arkansas's counties before the centennial observance ends in 2018, and invites libraries across the state to participate in this project, along with local Scout troops, American Legion posts, and others. To learn more, visit <http://www.wwiarkansas.com/>, email [mark.christ@arkansas.gov](mailto:mark.christ@arkansas.gov), or call (501) 324-9886. Together, we can again honor the thousands of Arkansans who fought and died in the Great War.

## Ulster Historical Foundation North American Tour

*The following is from the Ulster Historical Foundation website*

### **Want to discover your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors?**

Many people believe that researching Irish ancestors is impossible because of the destruction of the Public Record Office in 1922. While many records were destroyed, others survived and large collections have come online in recent years.

Join experts Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Foundation during their annual North American lecture tour to learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research.

Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss these workshops!

The North American Lecture Tour will be take place March 3 through 22, 2017 as shown here.

Friday, 03 March - Phoenix, AZ (9:00am-5:00pm)

Saturday, 04 March - Phoenix, AZ (9:00am-5:00pm)

Sunday, 05 March - Tacoma, WA (1:00pm-5:00pm)

Tuesday, 07 March - The Hermitage, Nashville, TN (6:00pm-9:00pm)

Thursday, 09 March - Michigan City, IN (9:30am-4:00pm)

Saturday, 11 March - Bentonville, AR (9:00am-4:00pm)

Sunday, 12 March - York County, PA (1:00pm-5:00pm)

Monday, 13 March - Green Bay, WI (5:00pm-8:00pm TBC)

## Ulster Historical Foundation North American Tour *continued*

Wednesday, 15 March - Fountaindale, IL (9:30am-5:00pm)

Thursday, 16 March - Fountaindale, IL (9:30am-4:30pm)

Friday, 17 March - Richmond, VA (9:00am-12:30pm) Saturday, 18 March - Philadelphia, PA [Details to be confirmed]

Sunday, 19 March - Pittsburgh, PA (9:00am-4:30pm)

Tuesday, 21 March - Little Rock, AR (6:00pm-9:00pm)

What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day itself, than by making a start on your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestral quest. Your Irish genealogy is waiting to be discovered.

With sixty years' experience of serving Irish people everywhere, let the Ulster Historical Foundation help you discover your family's story.

For more details, please visit their website, <https://www.ancestryireland.com/northamericantour2017/>

## Searching Revolutionary War Ancestors

*The following is republished from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 152, October 31, 2016, which I receive by email. To subscribe to “Genealogy Gems,” simply use your browser to go to the website: [www.GenealogyCenter.org](http://www.GenealogyCenter.org). Scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email*

### Some Free Websites for Searching Revolutionary War Ancestors by Delia Bourne

A number of good subscription websites exist for searching Revolutionary War ancestors, but some are also free for anyone to use. One of the best of these is the “Valley Forge Legacy - Muster Roll Project,” <http://valleyformusterroll.org>. This site allows one to perform a truncated search of last names by simply entering at least the first two letters of a surname. The search can be limited by state or regiment. Each entry provides name, rank, state, regiment, company, and ethnicity, if noted, for each soldier. For example, Private Richard Rhodes, an African-American serving with the First Rhode Island, appears on the muster roll for June 1778 as “sick at Englishtown.” More information is provided for Smith Boonefield, 5th troop, 2nd Dragoons, New Jersey Cavalry, who was a farmer from Woodbridge, stood 5’10” tall, and had a dark complexion with dark hair and eyes. George Gray, Troop Commander of the 4th Virginia Dragoons, was born on May 13, 1745, in Virginia and was 32 years old when he led his troop into Valley Forge. He married Mildred Thompson and died on December 2, 1823, in Kentucky. One can also search by division, brigade or regiment. For each, a brief history is provided with notes as to when the unit entered and left Valley Forge. The site also includes a history of the encampment, images, and other information.

Another website is the “Kentucky Revolutionary War Warrants Database,” online at <http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/military/revwar/> Each entry provides the warrant number, name, rank, regiment, number of years served, date of application, number of acres awarded, and assignee, if any. For example, Samuel Holt, Virginia State Line, received 100 acres in 1789, which he assigned to John Carter. The database also provides an image of the warrant.

## Searching Revolutionary War Ancestors *continued*

The Pennsylvania State Archives hosts, among other resources, the “Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File and the Militia Officers Index Cards, 1775-1800” at <http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us>. The “Military Abstract Card File” contains transcriptions of data extracted from original records in the custody of the State Archives concerning Revolutionary War service in the Pennsylvania Militia, Pennsylvania Line, and the Navy. Browse alphabetically to find name, rank, county, battalion and source of the information. The file lists records of both active and inactive service. The “Militia Officers Index” lists militia officers who served during the American Revolution as well as in campaigns against Native Americans in north-western Pennsylvania and during the Whiskey Rebellion. Information provided includes name, county, rank, company or battalion, dates of service, township, and occasionally the district within township. In rare cases, other pertinent information is provided such as place of burial, wounds received, names of children, names of any expeditions or campaigns, name of person whom they succeeded, and date discharged.

The Archives of Maryland offers “Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution” at <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000018/html/index.html>. Browse page by page, or use the index, which will indicate the specific page number on which a particular soldier is listed. For example, Jeremiah Cyphert, appears on pages 427 and 474. Although this is not a comprehensive list of Marylanders who served, it is an excellent starting point.

Finally, “American Prisoners of the Revolution: Names of 8000 Men” at <http://www.usmm.org/revdead.html> provides a name listing only of the men held by the British as naval prisoners on ships at Wallabout Bay, later the site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The prisoners included men captured on American privateers, on merchant ships, and on French, Spanish, and Dutch vessels. This list was compiled by the Society of Old Brooklynites in 1888 from papers in the British War Department. No note was made as to the disposition of each prisoner (escaped, exchanged, died), and the transcribers of 1888 were careless of spelling, but it is still a valuable source for anyone searching sailors of the Revolutionary War era. Also included is a list of the prison and hospital ships, how many prisoners could be held on the ship, and the first year of use.

There are other great Revolutionary War sources, so be inspired to seek others.

## Black Political Engagement in Arkansas Symposium

*The following is from the Arkansas State Archives Website*

The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas State Archives will be hosting a symposium on Sat., Feb. 4, at its sister agency, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Stacy Hurst announced today. The symposium's theme, "Black Political Engagement in Arkansas," will feature speakers Dr. John Graves, Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Elmer Beard, and Dr. R.J. Hampton.

Topics include African American Women and the Arkansas Republican Party, 1960s-1970; John Gray Lucas: Pioneer Champion of Civil Rights; The Challengers: Untold Stories of African American who Changed the System in One Small Southern Municipality, and Dr. R.J. Hampton's career in Arkansas's political arena.

"The seminars coordinated by the Black History Commission and State Archives play such an important role in fostering greater understanding of the important role that African Americans have played in all aspects of Arkansas history," said Hurst.

State Historian and Arkansas State Archives director Dr. Lisa Speer remarked, "In this post-election year as we reflect on the accomplishments of outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama, it seems particularly fitting to take a closer look at the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in the political arena in Arkansas."

The seminar is free to attend but registration is required. The deadline for registration will be Mon., Jan. 30. Registration is limited, so be sure to make reservations soon. Check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 4. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Lunch will be provided.

For more information about the symposium or to register, email [events.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:events.archives@arkansas.gov) or call 501-682-6900.

*The registration deadline has past. If you are interested, I would suggest that you call ASAP! You won't know until you ask.*

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## **Administrative Stuff**

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