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## A Trip Back Home

Just recently I took a trip back home to Harrison, Arkansas. While there, I drove out to my Grandmother and Grandfather Wilkerson's place. I hadn't been since my dad and his siblings sold the homeplace on Highway 7 North in 1996, but knew things had changed. The old country store my grandparents owned was closed. The Marshalls, who bought the store in 1968, had passed away. The biggest change however, is the pasture where my cousins and I use to play; it is now home to a mega church. As I sat in the drive of my grandparents' old store looking around, I thought about the stories my grandmother would tell me. As a child she would travel this very same road with her father, a mail carrier, on horseback from Peel to Harrison. I remember her telling me stories of the trips and what buildings still remained from those days. I wondered what they would think of the changes over the last 21 years. Would they approve?

We all have questions we wish we could ask our ancestors and that list keeps growing as we dig through primary documents, seeking their story. Since summer vacation is coming up, I encourage those of you with grandchildren, children, nieces, and nephews, to spend some time talking or going through family photos with them, sharing family stories. You may think they aren't listening, but they probably are. Hopefully, they won't be left with as many questions as you were. Who knows, you may be developing a future genealogist.

### 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 —

With the historic floods recently in Arkansas many genealogists, historical societies, and libraries are dealing with the question of how to salvage their historical treasures. Here are some helpful sites to assist in the recovery process.

Download the FEMA fact sheet *After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures*, with tips and resources for individuals and institutions, [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452008937293-2c5cf070cabce562b9ae8727abbd7e9/Flood\\_FIMA\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2015\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452008937293-2c5cf070cabce562b9ae8727abbd7e9/Flood_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508.pdf).

Download the FEMA fact sheet *Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms*, with tips and resources on salvaging different types of objects, from photos to fabric to furniture, and more. [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1490121650722-14c891088abe31790eda2e346280eaf2/Salvaing\\_Family\\_Valuables\\_FIMA\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2017\\_508WDU.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1490121650722-14c891088abe31790eda2e346280eaf2/Salvaing_Family_Valuables_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2017_508WDU.pdf).

Download the free ERS: *Emergency Response and Salvage* app, for at-your-fingertips salvage advice, <http://www.conservation-us.org/emergencies/ers-app>.

Cultural institutions, keep this 24/7 hotline number handy: [202.661.8068](tel:202.661.8068). The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals, are available 24/7 to provide advice to cultural stewards.

Familiarize yourself with the disaster declaration process in case one is declared for your state, <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-declaration-process>. Additional response and recovery resources can be found on the Heritage Emergency National Task Force website, <https://culturalrescue.si.edu/resources/response-recovery-resources/>. And please don't hesitate to contact [lori.foley@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:lori.foley@fema.dhs.gov) or [hentf@si.edu](mailto:hentf@si.edu) with any questions .

## Coming Events

June 8-10, 2017

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

June 10, 2017

The Arkansas State Archives will sponsor, “*Jim Crow Goes to War: Race Relations in World War I Arkansas*,” from 9:00 am to 3 pm on Saturday June 10, at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. To register email [events.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:events.archives@arkansas.gov) or call 501-682-6900.

June 20, 2017

The Arkansas State Archives, Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writer’s Lecture Series; Brooks Blevins - “*Back Yonder: An Ozark Chronicle*,” from 7:00 pm to 8 pm on Saturday June 20, at Historic Arkansas Museum. To register email [events.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:events.archives@arkansas.gov) or call 501-682-6900.

July 15, 2017

The [Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas](#), will sponsor their summer lock-in, “*Wind Back The Clock*” from 6:00 pm to midnight on Saturday, June 15, 2017. See their website for the details.

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.

The Arkansas State Archives, “Cultivation Life: Agricultural History in Northeast Arkansas,”

August 30-September 2, 2017

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

September 16, 2017

The Arkansas State Archives, Fruit of the Vine: Arkansas’s Italian Community and Foodways

October 17, 2017

The Arkansas State Archives, Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writer’s Lecture Series; Erik Wright - “Main Street Mayhem: Crime, Murder and Justice in Downtown Paragould”

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.

## Coming Events continued

August 22-25, 2018

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

October 19-20, 2018

The Arkansas Genealogical Society 2018 Fall Conference will be at the Benton Event and Convention Center in Benton, Arkansas. Cee Cee Moore is scheduled to present.

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.

## Remains of a Little Girl

The following is republished from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. The article written by Joseph Serna was first published in the Los Angeles Times, May 10, 2017.

### Remains of a Little Girl in a Forgotten Casket are Identified

This story combines detective work, genealogy, DNA, and public records.

A little girl about 3 years old died and was buried about 140 years ago in an unmarked metal casket in a wealthy San Francisco neighborhood. When workers recently discovered her elaborate coffin beneath a concrete slab, there were no markings or gravestone to say who she was. A team of scientists, amateur sleuths and history buffs worked tirelessly to solve the central question in this Bay Area mystery: Who was the little girl in the casket?

She has now been identified. The girl's DNA was matched to that of a relative now living in San

## Remains of a Little Girl *continued*

Rafael. The story of the investigation is intriguing. Investigators found a scale plan of the cemetery development in 1865 at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. That provided an approximate location of the grave.

Thanks to the Internet and a culture of open records that existed from the 17th century to the 1960s, amateur genealogists were able to tap centuries of records of censuses, births, marriages, properties and deaths to trace up and down each candidates' family tree. The whole effort took three people 3,000 hours, said Elissa Davey, who spearheaded the search for Edith's identity.

You can read the entire story in an article by Joseph Serna in the *Los Angeles Times* web site at:

<http://lat.ms/2q4oflt>.

## Historical & Genealogical Society

The *Joseph Vick Family of America (JVFOA)*, is a non-profit association dedicated to the genealogy of Joseph Vick, who was a planter, of Lower Parish, Isle of Wight County, Virginia. They need assistance in trying to identifying the parents of Joseph Vick. The following is a press release put out by Gailen Vick President and Director of the *Joseph Vick Family of America (JVFOA)*:

### Joseph Vick, Early American Immigrant Looking for Parents & Descendants

**Saratoga Springs, UT - May 1, 2017:** My name is **Joseph Vick** and over 350 years have passed since I last knew where my parents lived in Europe. I was born around 1640 and probably came to Virginia in the mid-to-late 1660s. On 20 December 1673, I was deeded 50 acres by Hodges Council where I cultivated the rich soil at the Beaver Dam Swamp and grew my small parcel of land to build a plantation in Virginia. I died in Isle of Wight County, Virginia before 1704.

Over the years my descendants have organized to find my roots:

- 1972** Sam Vick of Mississippi hosted a family gathering of 170 of my descendants
- 1984** Mary Jo McCrary & James M. Perrin (descendants of Reverend Newit Vick, whom the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi was named) founded the [Joseph Vick Family of America](#)
- 1990** Gailen Vick and O. Richard Wright [formally incorporated](#) JVFOA



## Historical & Genealogical Society *continued*

-2004 published the first 5 generations [Joseph Vick of Lower Parish](#), Isle of Wight County, Virginia co-authored by John Beatty, Di Ann Vick & published by James Davis

Today my progeny includes a former governor, a past president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and ministers of most religious faiths. My descendants have served faithfully in the wars and battles for the countries of the USA, Republic of Texas and England since I came to the English Colony of Virginia. In fact I have over 20,000 descendants in North America.

In 2006 my descendants started a DNA project: so far more than 100 of my posterity have been tested. They've helped find adoptees' parents and corrected errors in the family tree that had been previously published. They've reached out and tested other Vicks around the world. Recently, my descendants found a **"new" cousin** through their **Vick DNA project**. While this new cousin does not have the Vick surname, his ancestor was **born in Gloucestershire, England**, and he shares my father's paternal line. This important new finding will be highlighted at the JVFOA annual meeting in Suffolk, Virginia this coming June on 23-25th. The community and my descendants will be educated on family genealogy, and DNA test results at the 2017 Annual Meeting & Reunion.

For more information visit [www.jvfoa.com](http://www.jvfoa.com) or call Gailen Vick at 510-364-7631.

## Newspaper Digitization Project

The following announcement is from the Arkansas State Archives blog From the Vault, May 17, 2017.

### **Arkansas State Archives participates in newspaper digitization project**

The Arkansas State Archives, in partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs), has digitized 24 Arkansas newspapers through a joint newspaper digitization project with Newspapers.com in order to provide more access to these resources, Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Stacy Hurst announced today.

The State Archives contributed 208 rolls from 17 different Arkansas newspapers, with a total of 209,000 pages scanned, digitized, and indexed by Newspapers.com. In addition, the digitized newspapers will be made available online for free to patrons in the State Archives research room and at the Central Arkansas Library System.

Newspapers.com began the process of digitization and indexing the papers in February 2017. Contributions to the project from the State Archives include The Osceola Times, 1873 - 1925; the Helena Weekly Clarion, Feb. 1869 - April 1870; the Helena Weekly World, 1895-1902; the Helena Southern Shield, 1840-1870; the Fort Smith Herald, 1848-1915; the Fort Smith Times, 1898-1909; Arkadelphia's Southern Standard, 1869-1924; the Pine Bluff Daily Graphic, 1893-1923;

## Newspaper Digitization Project *continued*

the Batesville Guard, 1877-1911; the Batesville Daily Guard, 1907-1924; Hot Springs New Era, 1912-1923; the Monticellonian, 1894-1919; Fayetteville's The Arkansan, 1859-1861; the Arkansas Banner, 1843-1851; the Arkansas Advocate, 1830-1837; the Arkansas Intelligencer, 1843-1849 and 1857-1858; and the Arkansas Times & Advocate, 1837-1838.

The Central Arkansas Library System also contributed 336 rolls of microfilm from seven Arkansas newspapers. Titles include the Weekly Arkansas Gazette, 1819-1868; Arkansas Gazette, 1865-1922; Arkansas Democrat, 1878-1922; Arkansas Mansion, 1883-1884; Little Rock Daily News, 1919-1922; Mountain Echo, 1886-1922; Nashville News, 1898-1922.

The entire collection of digitized newspapers will be available online to the public via subscription through Newspapers.com by June. The ASA is happy to partner with CALS in working to improve access to these valuable sources of historical information.

The Arkansas State Archives is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and is responsible for collecting and maintaining the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world. The State Archives has two branch locations; the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives is located in Powhatan and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives is located in Washington.

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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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