



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 12, No. 8, August 2017

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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!

When doing genealogy some of the most interesting rabbit holes you can go down are those of the black sheep of the family. Many families have stories of their ancestors who might have been a murderer, horse thief, or even a prostitute. In my own family I have an ancestor who supposedly owned a brothel and saloon in Oklahoma. No one ever spoke of her except to say, "Don't bother going down that road, she isn't worth the time."

Well, that just made me want to do the opposite. I was on the case and it took me sixteen years to discover the truth. What I discovered was a strong woman who found a way to survive. Her name was Millie Seals. Born in Tennessee, Millie and her family relocate to Madison County, Arkansas in the 1850s. By 1860 she had married George Washington Miller and the couple had three children. In 1863, the year their fourth child was born, George was killed fighting for the Confederacy. Millie, left with four children in an area hit hard during the war, was destitute. By the end of the war she was forced to send her children to live with relatives and friends so that she could earn money.

Millie found work with a wagon train, which followed the Butterfield trail, as a cook. She worked on the wagon train until 1900 when she settled in Kansas and supported herself as a weaver. Eventually Millie reunited with her adult children and married three more times, outliving all but her last husband.

So why is this story different than what the family told? That I cannot answer, but the documents tell me a much different story, one of loss and survival. Don't let the fear of researching the family villain stop you from going down a rabbit hole. The villain just might be a hero.

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Tidbits –

Declarations of Intent and Naturalization Records

Declarations of Intent and Naturalization Records research can be difficult depending on when your ancestors came to the United States. Like most records they have evolved over time, so the information will vary. Before 1906, these records remain at the state's county level and depending on the state they can be filed anywhere. After 1906, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was created. The records became standardized and the agency became the official record keeper.

These documents hopefully will help unlock your family's history by giving you the immigrant's original name, his Americanized name, his nation of origin and his date of arrival.

To begin your immigration research visit these sites:

ancestry.com

familysearch.org

libertyellisfoundation.org

Coming Events

August 5, 2017

The [Heritage Seekers](#) will sponsor a Genealogy Research Day, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Butler Center. A 50th birthday party will follow.

August 5, 2017

The Arkansas State Archives, “Cultivation Life: Agricultural History in Northeast Arkansas,” from 9:30 am to 3 pm at Powhatan Historic State Park, Powhatan, Arkansas. For more information contact northeast.archives@arkansas.gov or 870-878-6521.

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.

September 16, 2017

Ozark Genealogical Society, Inc., Show Me the Evidence will be held at the Relics Event Center in Springfield Missouri.

September 25, 2017

Heritage Seekers, Bringing it Back: Basic Cemetery Maintenance & Safety by Holly Hope, Arkansas Historic Preservation Project, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

Coming Events *(continued)*

October 6-7, 2017

Pierre Chastain Family Association, 2017 Annual Reunion at th Hampton Inn in Louisville, Kentucky.

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," from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information contact the Arkansas State Archives at 501-682-6900.

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!](#)

October 23, 2017

Heritage Seekers, Notes from the Surgical Suite Operative Report: WWI *Phillip A Snodgrass, MD*/author, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

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.

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 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.

Genealogy 101: #26 The 1890 Veterans Schedule

The following is republished from the Genealogybank blog at blog.genealogybank.com. The article written by Gena Philibert-Ortega was published on July 20, 2017 .

Introduction: In this article - part of an ongoing "Introduction to Genealogy" series - Gena Philibert-Ortega describes how not all of the 1890 census information was destroyed in the 1921 Commerce Building fire - many records from the 1890 Veterans Schedule still survive. Gena is a genealogist and author of the book "[From the Family Kitchen.](#)"

The initial reaction most family history researchers have when they hear the words "1890 census" is sadness, due to its almost complete destruction in the 1921 Commerce Building fire. But there were more records from that census year than just the doomed population schedule - other schedules (records) still survive. For example, for those with Union veterans or their widows in their family tree, there may still be hope of learning more about your ancestors, thanks to the 1890 Veterans Schedule. While not all of this enumeration survives (more on that below), this schedule offers another place to learn more about a Union veteran ancestor.

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Genealogy 101: #26 The 1890 Veterans Schedule (continued)

According to the United States Census Bureau, the 1890 Veterans Schedule was conducted at the request of the U.S. Pension Office to “help Union veterans locate comrades to testify in pension claims and to determine the number of survivors and widows for pension legislation.” In addition, some congress men were also interested in this enumeration to learn more about the correlation between military service and longevity.*

The fact that this schedule was to be used by citizens to find long-lost comrades is very different than the goal of any other census enumeration. Its plan for immediate access for the public is contrary to how we are accustomed to accessing the census; normally, information is only available after a 72-year privacy period. Yes, individuals can write to the Census Bureau to obtain information from a schedule where they themselves appear in order to obtain age verification, but in the case of the Veterans Schedule the intent was that the census information would be published, then distributed to “...libraries and veterans’ organizations so individuals could more easily locate their fellow veterans.”**

Unfortunately, this never happened.

Information found in the “Special Schedule - Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.” documents the name, rank, company, name of regiment or vessel, date of enlistment, date of discharge, length of service, post office address, disability incurred, and any additional remarks including details about wounds sustained, where the person was held a prisoner of war, and more. In cases where the veteran was deceased, his information and the name of his widow was included. While this

Genealogy 101: #26 The 1890 Veterans Schedule (continued)

schedule was to collect information about only Union veterans, there are some instances where non-Union and non-Civil War soldiers were enumerated.

Initially, 1,099,668 Union survivors and 163,176 widows were counted. However, additional efforts to find every veteran or widow continued via newspaper articles and through correspondence.*** Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding and government red tape, the initial intentions for this census were never carried out.

Availability Today

While it appears these schedules could not have been affected by the 1921 Commerce Building fire that destroyed the 1890 population schedules, the Veterans Schedule is not wholly intact. Some of the enumeration was destroyed prior to its transfer to the National Archives in 1943.****

Unfortunately, there are a number of states missing from the schedules. States missing include Alabama through Kansas and half of Kentucky. However, there are a few places among the destroyed states that can be found at the end of the Washington D.C. and Miscellaneous microfilm roll, including: “California (Alcatraz); Connecticut (Fort Trumbull, Hartford County Hospital, and U.S. Naval Station); Delaware (Delaware State Hospital for the Insane); Florida (Fort Barrancas and St. Francis Barracks); Idaho (Boise Barracks and Fort Sherman); Illinois (Cook County and Henderson County); Indiana (Warrick County and White County); and Kansas (Barton County).”*****

The 1890 Veterans Schedule is available on National Archives and Records Administration microfilm. You can read more about the schedule on their [1890 Census](#) web page.

You can search this schedule on the [FamilySearch](#) web page.

Genealogy 101: #26 The 1890 Veterans Schedule (continued)

* "1890 Veterans Census," United States Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/1890_veterans_census.html): accessed 9 June 2017).

** "First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census, Part 2," Prologue Magazine (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-2.html>): accessed 9 June 2017).

*** Ibid.

**** "1890 Veterans Census," United States Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/1890_veterans_census.html): accessed 9 June 2017).

***** "First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census, Part 2," Prologue Magazine (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-2.html>): accessed 9 June 2017).

Engaging in Family History with Early Pioneer Recipes

The following is republished from the Family Search blog at familysearch.org. The article written by Alison Ensign was published on July 18, 2017 .

Early pioneers are an important part of our personal stories and family history. Whether your great-grandfather traveled with a handcart company or you yourself are an immigrant, pioneers pave the way for the generations to come. Pioneer stories open a window to the past, revealing people not so different from ourselves.

One fun way to connect with early pioneers and engage your family in their ancestry is to share some of the culinary traditions the pioneers would have enjoyed. We've found some recipes that were made on the trail or that have been passed down through generations to get you started as you explore family history through pioneer stories. Gather your family, and try some of these historical recipes in your own home to get a taste of what life was like for many pioneers.

Pioneer Trail Recipes

On their trek across the plains, pioneers went without many of the luxuries and amenities we enjoy to day. Travelers cooked in cast-iron dutch ovens over fires, or they improvised if the weather was poor or their tools broke. They often relied on the resources available within their surroundings. Using both wild fruits – plums, cherries, grapes, gooseberries, currants—and the glorious fresh fruit cultivated so successfully from imported cuttings, early pioneer women were soon making some of the delicacies that reminded them of

Engaging in Family History with Early Pioneer Recipes (continued)

home, like these currant whirligigs from England. Two other favorites were potato cakes, a 100-year-old recipe that came across the plains with an Austrian immigrant, and hand-mixed bread, as good today as it was in the early days.

Recipes such as these can introduce us to some of the traditions of our pioneer ancestors and can help us embrace the history that comes along with them. Food has a way of bringing the family together and of carrying the emotions of family memories with it. Learn more about how family recipes can create a lasting impact on family history by reading about [recipe traditions](#), or find out more about your pioneer heritage using FamilySearch's [pioneer database](#).

Is Ancestry DNA helpful for Jewish Genealogy?

The following is republished from the ancestry.com blog at blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/. The article written by Jasmine Rockow was published on July 21, 2017.

Experts discuss common pitfalls and share their strategies for success

Autosomal DNA testing has become a standard tool used by many genealogists, and it has helped people discover unknown Jewish ancestry. But using autosomal DNA in Jewish research is filled with challenges, due in large part to the Jewish Diaspora and a long history of endogamy (marrying solely within one's community). Jewish AncestryDNA users often discover thousands of cousin matches and an ethnicity category that stretches from Germany, across Eastern Europe, and well into the western half of Russia. It may feel overwhelming at first, but it is possible (though not easy) to break down brick walls in Jewish research using DNA.

Janette Silverman specializes in Jewish research at [AncestryProGenealogists](https://ancestryprogenealogists.com/), and she and her team have used DNA to solve cases for clients. "You have to be able to first take a few deep breaths when you're doing this kind of research, and you also have to be really patient," she said. "I think you need to understand the issues that cause the challenges (in Jewish genealogical research), which will help inform how to use DNA."

Diaspora and Expulsions

Unlike other dispersed groups, the Jewish community has been scattered across the globe for more than 2,000 years. They settled in Babylonia after being exiled from Israel about 2,600 years ago, followed by a second exile about 2,000 years ago that resulted in a diaspora scattering the Jewish population across Europe, Africa, and Asia, and ultimately around the world.

Is Ancestry DNA helpful for Jewish Genealogy? (continued)

“You wound up with pockets of people who settled in different areas; and because of persecution, economic interests, or other reasons, they weren’t tied to wherever they were living,” Janette said. “So, they were moving around, and they were moving around in family groups, for the most part.”

Starting in the 12th century, Jews all over Europe endured waves of expulsion lasting into the 20th century. Distinct communities were forced out of the areas in which they had settled and intermixed with each other, according to Josh Perlman, a specialist in Jewish research who works on Janette’s team. A large number ended up in what was the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, because that was one of the only places they were allowed to settle. The Ottoman Empire was the other major destination that accepted Jewish refugees.

Although AncestryDNA’s new Genetic Communities can pinpoint some ethnicities to very specific locations, down to a county level in some places, it is a different story for a population, like the Jewish communities, that didn’t remain in one place. Due to the dispersion of the Jewish community, AncestryDNA’s “community” for European Jews generally covers a huge territory. Ashkenazi Jews are categorized as being from either “Central Europe” or the “Russian Empire.” To demonstrate how convoluted the relationships are, Jews from the Russian Empire are divided into three subgroups that inhabit the same geographic area: Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland. This was the area ceded to the Russian Empire during the partitions of Poland in the late eighteenth century, referred to as “the Pale of Settlement.” To confuse things even further, the Central European Jewish communities overlap, to some degree, with those of the Russian Empire in Poland and Ukraine.

These classifications into Central Europe or the Russian Empire can give a person some vague idea of where their families were from, by dividing the European Jewish ethnicity into two somewhat distinctive groups. One interesting group is that which combines the Benelux countries. This is composed of a relatively

Is Ancestry DNA helpful for Jewish Genealogy? (continued)

small population, and by separating it from the larger population, someone whose DNA community is defined within it can more specifically identify their family's place of origin. However, the lack of distinction in the other areas reinforces what has become evident through documentation, and that is the notion of the Jewish community as a migrant population.

Endogamy

Compounding this lack of specificity in place is a long history of endogamy. Jewish law allows cousins to marry, and in some families, this occurred over many generations. As a result, it's common for Jewish AncestryDNA users to have thousands of matches whose relationships can be difficult to determine. "It looks like you're more closely related than you actually are, because you're sharing more DNA than you would normally share," Janette said. For example, you and a match may share enough DNA (measured in centiMorgans) to look like first cousins, when in fact you are really second or third cousins with the same common ancestor appearing on multiple family lines.

For this reason, Janette and her team don't use DNA matches beyond the third cousin level when trying to establish the most recent common ancestor in a client's family tree. The issue with going back beyond third cousin matches in the Jewish community is the lack of specificity regarding relationships. For example, a relationship in a Jewish match that appears as a third or fourth cousin may really be a sixth or eighth cousin because Jews may be related through several branches of their family due to endogamy. And of course, documentation is vital in confirming these relationships.

Tips for Success

Build your tree, make it public, and attach the DNA test (whether it's yours or a test you have administered for someone else) to the correct person in the tree. This allows your matches to compare their tree with yours, making it easier to determine how you might be related.

Is Ancestry DNA helpful for Jewish Genealogy? (continued)

- Identify the names used by your ancestor as an immigrant and their European hometown using birth, marriage, or death records in the United States. Always look at the original records, which will have more information than an index. Be aware that people often named a larger, nearby town rather than the smaller locality in which they actually lived. Search all the records to be as specific as you can.

- Once you have defined the European hometown as much as possible, you may need to enlist the help of researchers who work in those areas. “You need somebody digging in the archives who has lots of experience with that particular archive,” Janette said.

Only once you have taken your tree back as far as you can get it should you look at cousin matches.

- Start with those matches that have trees attached to their DNA results. You might get lucky and find a tree that goes back far enough to identify the common ancestor. However, it’s more likely that you will need to do more research on that person’s tree in hopes of finding a common ancestor. You can also use the “Shared Matches” feature to identify who your matches share in common.

- Search your DNA matches by surname and look at their trees. Do you see a common ancestor in your tree and a match’s tree? Is the relationship and the amount of DNA shared a little closer than the actual relationship you expect to have with this person? Do the places and documents in their tree match those in your tree? Search for clues that it is in fact a common ancestor, rather than someone with a common name that isn’t your ancestor.

For a more in-depth discussion about interpreting autosomal DNA test results, read Autosomal DNA statistics from the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. And, stay tuned for more articles about Jewish genealogy on the Ancestry blog.

Administrative Stuff

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

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