



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 9, No. 4, April 2014

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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!

Recently I have seen more than one article about Evernote. Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter had a column about it which leads to the Moultrie Creek Gazette website. There is an extensive article in the January-March 2014 NGS Magazine. There seems to be a lot of interest currently

You can read about Evernote on page 9. Now let's discuss technology a bit. Where do you keep your buggy whips? How much whale oil do you burn in the winter? Where do you buy the flash bulbs for your Kodak? Technology changes over time. What does this have to do with genealogy and family research?

What makes a "good" photograph? Is it the camera or the operator? I think we would all conclude that the picture is made in the mind of the photographer. The same concept is true in genealogy. Technology will not make your research better, only easier in some cases. Good practices and procedures are what puts the quality in the results.

I must confess, I have been guilty in the past of counting on the technology to improve my research. The truth is that the quality of research is directly related to the quantity of the effort and of one's experience. Webster defines experience as "the skill or knowledge that you get by doing something." Perhaps one could say it takes old fashion work.

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Tidbits —

Requests for help please.

If you had an ancestor who served in the Third Arkansas Cavalry, CSA, during the Civil War and who was a veteran of the Battle of Rivers Bridges that took place in South Carolina in February of 1865, the South Carolina State Parks Service would like to hear from you.

They are planning a special series of events to celebrate the 150 anniversary of that event and want to invite descendants of the Third Arkansas participate. The SC Park Service is compiling information on the individual servicemen who took part of the event. Confederate units from AR, GA, SC, TN, and TX took part in the Battle. Contact Dan Bell, SC State Park Service, 1500 Old Towne Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 843-517-6623 for additional information.

The City of Walton, KY, has purchased and restored Gaines Tavern, the home built by William H. Gaines’ father, Abner Gaines, circa. 1814. They are celebrating its 200th anniversary this year and hope to have many of the descendants of Abner Gaines present. Connie Goins, with the City of Walton, is requesting help in finding and contacting them. Some descendants came to north west Arkansas. If you can help Connie, her phone is 859-485-4383.

Coming Events

April 5, 2014

The Oklahoma Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar April 5, 2014, at the Oklahoma History Center, 900 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Visit www.okgensoc.org for more information.

April 12, 2014

Walks Through History April tour of the Jasper Commercial Historic District. See page 6.

April 19, 2014

Northwest Arkansas Family History Conference will be held at Springdale, Arkansas from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Click [here](#) for more details and registration information.

April 26, 2014

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will offer a free workshop on tombstone Maintenance at Gum Grove Cemetery on Daugherty Street in Newport, Arkansas. The workshop, including lunch, is open to the first 40 people. Call Holly Hope at 501.324.9880.

April 28, 2014

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club meets at 7:00 pm in the Laman Library in Little Rock. The program is “A City Within A City: Little Rock’s Segregated Community” by Bryan McDade, Mosaic Templar’s Cultural Center, curator

Coming Events continued

May 3, 2014

The 2014 AGS Spring Workshop to be held at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The workshop is free, but space is limited. See page 17 for the details.

May 9, 2014

Education Civil War Event for Public, Private, and Home-School Students in DeValls Bluff. For more information, see page 6 of the March issue of the Ezine. You can find it on the AGS website.

May 7 through 10, 2014

NGS 2014 Family History Conference, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel located in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Conference highlights and contact information for conference hotels can be found in the Announcement Brochure, which can be downloaded at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf. Pre-registration ends April 22, 2014.

June 6 & 7, 2014

The 25th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will be held in Leslie & Marshall, Arkansas. [Click here](#) to see the web site for all the details.

Coming Events continued

August 20-23, 2014

The NGS research trip to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be under the guidance of research consultants Janet A. Alpert and Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL. For more information click [here](#).

August 27 through 30, 2014

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. See the web site for more information, www.fgs.org.

November 2-8, 2014

NGS research trip to Washington, DC. Registration opened March 3, 2014

January 4-11, 2015

NGS research trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration opened March 17, 2014.

May 13-16, 2015

The NGS Family History Conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri, at the St. Charles Convention Center.

Walks Through History Program of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program web site provides the following:

The "Walks Through History" program is a series of monthly outdoor walking tours that seeks to familiarize people who live and work in communities outside of central Arkansas with the historic structures and sites around them. Presented by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the tours begin at 11 a.m., unless otherwise noted, on Saturdays, and last between one and two hours. An AHPP staff historian leads the tour, delivering a brief lecture about the properties visited and their history.

April 12, 2014 - Jasper Commercial Historic District



Jasper Commercial Historic District

Co-sponsored by the Newton County Library.

Meet at the Newton County Library at HC 31, Box 8, in Jasper.

Located in the Little Buffalo River Valley, the Jasper Commercial Historic District is anchored by the WPA-built Newton County Courthouse and features several distinctive rough-cut stone buildings.

You see the 2014 schedule by visiting their web site at <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/tours-events-workshops/walk-through-schedule/default.aspx>.

An Italian Midwife and the Records She Created

I realize that Tampa , Florida, is not eastern Arkansas and very few of us will have a need to use this data base; however, this is important to the family history community. The story about this midwife appeared in a July 30, 2010, Tampa Bay Times article by John Barry. You can read his article at <http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/a-genealogy-treasure-trove-translating-an-italian-midwifes-records-gives/1112171>.

A prolific Italian midwife provided her services from 1907 to 1939. She documented many, if not all, the births in great detail, genealogical detail. She recorded who the parents were, the siblings, where they lived, the ages, and more. Maria Messina Greco, the midwife, was from Sicily, therefore, her notes were all in Sicilian. You can read Mr. Barry's article to get all the details. If you do, you will discover a special connection.

I believe this story provides a good illustration of one valuable service the genealogical community can provide. The article relates how certain individuals, realizing the importance of the information they held in their hands, undertook the task of translating and compiling the records of more than 6,000 births. These people may not have been genealogist by title, but there were genealogist by their actions.

Over the past years, several members of the Arkansas Genealogy Society have participated in projects of similar nature. The results of their dedicated and unselfish worked resulted in several resources which make research in Arkansas more convenient or even possible from afar. Some of the offering on the AGS website are Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Arkansas Township Atlas, Arkansas Voter Lists 1867 and Arkansas Death Certificate Index 1935-1960, to mention a few. Work is underway on the current project of transcribing naturalization records.

The AGS goal of adding to the number of resource available for researchers in the future is dependent on our current and future membership. The AGS is YOU.

The midwife records are currently in the possession of Vienna Fuente. Records can be requested from her at mmgmidwiferecords@gmail.com. She was charging a \$3 fee for copies at the writing of the Tampa Bay article.

Oral Interviews + Copyright – Are You Using Best Practices

We frequently talk about the value of Oral Interviews either as we work to record such now for future generations or as we listen to or read transcriptions from interviews done in the past.

Last month, James Tanner (Genealogy's Star) did a post Oral Interviews and the law of Copyright which was his response/ruminations to a post by Michael J Leclerc's Mocavo post Copyright and the Oral Interview. The former has a lot of detail of best practices he researched in the world beyond genealogy.

To be honest, I had never really thought about these issues. Let me clarify that statement - if I was interviewing my family members (and obviously with their consent) the concept of copyright would not have been at the forefront of my brain. Though, now, after listening to several talks by Judy G Russell (The Legal Genealogist) and reading the posts by James and Michael, there clearly are copyright issues that we need to be aware of as we make plans to conduct (and record) oral interviews with family members.

It can be invaluable to check out established Oral History programs, such as the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (University of Florida), the Southern Oral History Program (UNC-CH) (includes a resource page), Columbia Center for Oral History, etc., to see both what they have in their collections and to explore the "best practices" that they have used to amass their collections.

As with any other "original works," Oral Interviews are copyrighted and it's imperative that the genealogical community understand the ins and outs of copyright law to make sure that once the interview is completed, we understand how we can or cannot share that interview with others.

copyright © National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22204-4370. <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Follow this link to the article on the [Upfront web site](#).

Evernote for Research

There is one question that every beginning genealogist will eventually ask. HOW? As you collect more notes and documents, you begin to wonder if you need an administrative assistant. There have been many articles and books written about organizing. What is the best, or at least, a good method for organizing my research? Research results in copies of birth certificates, death certificates, marriage records, family Bible pages, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other records. It used to all be paper, but now we have digital too. Some people have set a goal to convert all to digital. Paper or digital, the records must be managed. Many of us have used, and still use, file cabinets, hanging folders, three-ring binders, and shoe boxes. The digital records have pushed us to computers, or maybe computers have pushed us to digital records. What is the answer? Over time, the answer keeps changing. In 2014, Evernote is a good answer. It is not for everyone but it might be for you.

Evernote is a note-taking app that is used on a computer, smart phone and tablet. Did I mention FREE? The app is free, and there also is a paid version with added features and without advertising. Most of us can do very well with the free version. With Evernote, you can organize just about anything and easily find what you have. It was designed to work very well with webpages. The following is from the Evernote website:

Welcome! Evernote is the easy and powerful way to remember everything, from lifelong memories and vital information to daily reminders and to-do lists.

Everything you store in your Evernote account is automatically synced across all of your devices, making it easy to capture, browse, search and edit your notes everywhere you have Evernote, including smartphones, tablets, computers and on the Web.

Evernote is a tool that can be used in a variety of ways. It is a platform that you can use in a way that makes sense to you and conforms to your habits and methods. Their website says “a powerful way to remember everything.” I would say it is a powerful way to collect and organize the fruits of your research.

Evernote for Research *continued*

By way of example: you are exploring the cemetery and find the grave stone you have been searching for. Pull out your smartphone, open the Evernote app, and take the photo. You are looking through the record books in the court house and find the probate record you need. Pull out your smartphone, fire up Evernote, and take the photos (with permission of course). After several other “finds and captures”, you head for the house. When you finish washing the dinner dishes, you fire up your laptop, open Evernote, and there, all the “fruit” of the day, magically appears on your computer, ready for you to “do genealogy” so to speak.

The goal of this article is to make you aware of Evernote, not provide an exhaustive review of all the features. I suggest that you create a free Evernote account and take it for a spin. Read several articles about how other genealogists use it. Then you can decide if it is a tool you want to use and how you will use it. I would caution you that Evernote is not archival storage. We have no assurance that Evernote will evolve over the years and continue to be with us.

Click [here](#) to go to the Evernote website or you can Google it. Here is link to the [Moultrie Creek](#) article about using Evernote at conferences. Click [here](#) for the Moultrie Creek article “Has Evernote made Research Logs Obsolete?” I also recommend that you read the article by Jordan Jones titled “Evernote for genealogists” in the January-March 2014 issue of NGS Magazine, Volume 40, Number 1. You will have to read that article in the actual magazine.

My thanks to Dick Eastman in his Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter for making me aware of the Moultrie Creek Gazette.

Something New to Try from the Library

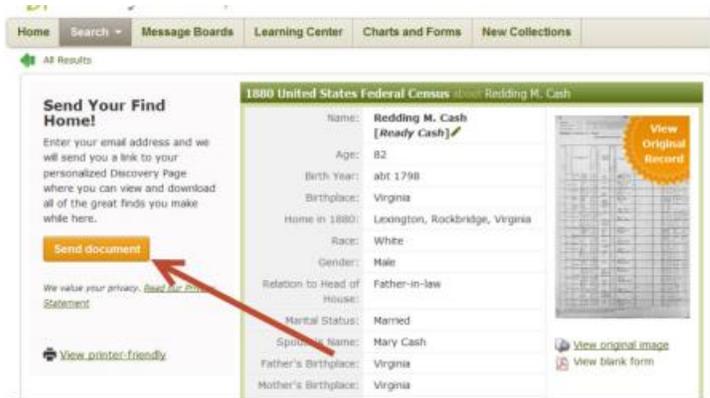
Posted by Anne Gillespie Mitchell on March 20, 2014, in Ask Ancestry Anne.

Did you know that Ancestry.com is available for free in thousands of libraries in the U.S? You can't create a tree, or post messages on message boards. You can't sit in your jammies and work on your family (please don't sit in your jammies in the library!). You can't work until 3 a.m. in the morning. But you can view much of our great content.

But how do you get the content home? You've found that census record that shows your great great grandma's maiden name was Smith (it's always something challenging like that, isn't it?).

You could print it. But that usually costs you money. Not much, granted, but it adds up. And printers don't always work. You could save it to a flash drive, but not all libraries allow that. What is an excited genealogist to do? Trust your memory? Ha!

Well, how about if you send it home and download or print it there? When you are on the record page, look in the left hand corner and you will see a "Send Document" button.



Click that, enter your email address and we will send you an email with a link to a Family Discoveries Page.

From there you can download the image and print the transcribed information.

Why You Can't Do All Your Research Online

The following article is from Michael J. Leclerc on the Mocavo Blog.

I'm slowly getting back into the swing of things after ten days in Salt Lake City. The RootsTech Conference was a terrific gathering of genealogists and techies discussing the present and future of the field. It was a great opportunity for learning, as well as meeting with new and old friends.

One of the major reasons I went to Salt Lake City the week before the conference was, of course, to take advantage of the research opportunities in the Family History Library (FHL). I was astounded at how slow the library was when I was there. There were nowhere near the number of patrons I have seen in the past.

Over the last decade, the Internet has blossomed with resources for genealogists. Websites such as Mocavo are indispensable for finding all of the information you need to research your family. None of us would want to go back to the pre-Internet days of research now that so many resources are available to us on the other side of a computer monitor, mouse, and keyboard. But the internet is not the all-in-one research tool that many think it is.

In one of the sessions, a speaker stated: "I'm relying on the internet to reveal all the secrets of my family tree to me. Now why do I rely, and so many others, rely on Internet research? Well, first of all, like many of you, I work long hours, and can only research on nights and weekends, which is usually not when archives are open. Second of all, the time and costs to travel are hard, which means that actually going to the archive or former family location is actually the last resort, not the first option."

As any experienced researcher will tell you, this is a path that will fill your research with unnecessary brick walls. The unfortunate truth is that not everything is available online. It takes onsite research in archives, libraries, and repositories to obtain as much information as possible about your family.

Many books have been published with compiled genealogies, extracted and abstracted records, and more. But many of these books will not be available online in your or my lifetime. Why? Copyright! Books are protected by copyright for long after the death of the author. And big corporations are only getting governments to extend that period,

Why You Can't Do All Your Research Online *continued*

not abbreviate it. There are ways to access these materials, however. How? By going to your local public library (which almost always have some night and weekend hours) and asking for an inexpensive (and sometimes free) interlibrary loan. This allows your library to borrow materials from other repositories for you.

Digitizing records is time consuming and expensive. Governments are putting modern records online quickly because they are already in electronic form. But older, historical materials are slower to come online.

Even with the vast resources of FamilySearch, digitizing is taking awhile. Last year, they estimated that it would take more than 300 years to digitize the items in their collection. Since that time, they have partnered with other organizations to help speed the process up, but it will still take more than 30 years before everything is available. Do you want to wait that long to access records that might break down your brick wall?

This is why I was at the FHL researching in person. By Tuesday I was joined by hundreds of other researchers, and by Friday evening the place was packed wall to wall with researchers cranking away to microfilm, scanning microfiche, reading books, and a few on computers. I came away with hundreds of images of original records that are not even available in extracted form online.

And while in-person visits to archives and repositories need not necessarily be the first stop, relegating them to the “last resort” pile will do nothing but ensure frustration for you. Research smartly, and use online resources and offline resources together to obtain as much information about your family as you can. Then you will have the most successful research experiences.

You can go to this article on the Mocavo Blog by clicking on this [link](#). You may find other helpful articles there.

Policy Change for Photocopies from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah

The following is from the Family Search website. Posted February 2, 2014, by Merrill White



Please note the following change in the policy for patrons who are requesting copies from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

All requests for information copied from films, book pages, CDs, marriage, death or birth certificates, wills and/or deeds, etc. will be copied in digital format and emailed to patrons in a zipped PDF or JPG file format. There is no charge for this service if we are able to email to information to patrons. NOTE: Requests are limited to 5 image shots per month.

If a patron does not have an email address, we can mail the information to the patron using the US Postal Service. However, as much as possible, we will rely on emailing all requests for information through the internet. If patrons do not own a computer or do not have an email address, they can request to have the information emailed to their local Family History Center, where they can print the information at the center.

Policy Change for Photocopies from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah *continued*

Patrons should request copies by submitting their request here: Photoduplication Request Form. All requests **MUST** include the following information:

- Film or Fiche number
- Item number
- Name of Individual(s) referred to in the record
- Title of the record
- Name of parents, spouse, grantor, grantee, etc.
- Event type (Birth, Death or Marriage)
- Complete event date and place
- Event place (county, parish, township, etc.)
- Volume or page number
- Registration or Certificate Number
- Any other information that will help us locate your record.

U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services to Hold Online Webinars

The following is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is offering online webinars designed for beginning and advanced historical and genealogical researchers. The webinars introduce attendees to the USCIS History, Library, and Genealogy programs and services. The online sessions will be conducted by agency historians, librarians, and program representatives.

While all of the webinars will interest genealogists, one that caught my eye is titled, Genealogy Program Introduction. The description states, "This webinar introduces the USCIS Genealogy Program and familiarizes attendees with the services, fees, website, request processes, and how/where to get help/more information. General public genealogists (beginner to advanced)."

You can learn more at the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) Historical Research Branch (HRB) History and Genealogy Webinars page at <http://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars>.

You can learn more about the USCIS History and Genealogy Program at <http://www.uscis.gov/historyandgenealogy>.

AGS 2014 Spring Workshop

**Arkansas Genealogical Society
2014 Spring Workshop
May 3, 2014**

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**Gibson Hall
Lakewood United Methodist Church
1922 Topf Rd, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116**

Agenda

- 8:30 AM - George Mitchell - President's Welcome/Housekeeping
- 9:00 AM - Steve Perdue - Saline County Library Resources
- 10:00 AM - Russell Baker - "So You Want to be a Cherokee"
- 11:00 - 12:30 - Lunch Break
- 12:30 PM - Lauren Jarvis - Arkansas History Commission Resources
- 1:00 PM - Jane Wilkerson - Immigration Research
- 2:00 - 4:30 PM Look up/Assistance/Questions

Also, go to our website: www.agsgenealogy.org

The workshop is free, but space is limited. Please register by April 25, 2014.
You can print the registration form from our website.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! doug44mann@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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