



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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AGS Ezine

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### Use It Or Lose It!

Have you heard this term before? Probably not in this context. I am thinking about our libraries!! The Texarkana Gazette reported December 30, 2014 that three Little River County libraries, Ashdown, Foreman, and Winthrop, will reduce hours starting January 6, 2015. Mary Evan with Heritage Seekers informs us that the Laman Library in Little Rock has cut all the evening hours, forcing Heritage Seekers to find a new meeting place beginning January 2015. Earlier this year the Garland County Library distributed the complete collection of Genealogical Resource Material to the Melting Pot Genealogical Society and the Garland County Historical Society. The Melting Pot Genealogical Society's library is a great resource, but it is open only two days a week.

You might think this does not matter since we have access to so much on the internet. Not True! Since the beginning of my Ezine editorship, I have read over and over, than only a small portion of genealogical and historical records are online. Read SMALL PORTION. On line is easy, on site is mandatory.

Please make it difficult for the libraries to reduce or eliminate services by being a consumer. If we use the libraries regularly we just may create enough demand to keep them. Use it or lose it!

#### 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 —

Heritage Seekers has changed the meeting place to The Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library, 4800 W. 10th St, Little Rock. The meetings are still the 4th Monday of the month, but at 6:30 instead of 7:00.

Are you searching for information regarding Union veterans of the American Civil War? If so, you will be interested in this website, [www.garrerecords.org](http://www.garrerecords.org), concerning the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). It is an online catalog listing all known GAR Post and Associated records. It is an ongoing project.

[WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE](#) returns for a new season Tuesday, February 24 at 10/9c. It will be on TLC, The Learning Channel.

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter posted a piece on December 16, 2014 titled “Ahnentafel Explained.” Dick does a good job of explaining for those of us who need it. Instead of republishing the entire article in this newsletter, here is the link to the piece at the [EOGN](#) site.

## Coming Events

January 15, 2015

The Arkansas History Commission and the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives present *Erasing Boundaries: Lawrence County at 200*. Hosted at Powhatan Historic State Park. Registration required by January 15. For more information and to register, visit [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com).

January 15, 2015

The Pope County Genealogy Group is hosting a Meet & Greet at 5:30 P.M. The event will be in the Katie Murdoch Genealogy & History Room of the Pope County Library, 116 East 3rd Street, Russellville, Arkansas. Questions: contact Matt Friend at (479) 968-4368.

January 26, 2015

The Texarkana USA Genealogical Society Meets 7 p.m. at the Texarkana Public Library, 600 W 3rd St, Texarkana, Texas. *Searching for and Evaluating Death Records* will be presented by Elfie Eitel Wilde.

February 11-14, 2015

FGS is teaming up with RootsTech at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City to share keynotes, activities, and an exhibit hall while offering two separate conferences under one roof. See the [FGS website](#) for the details.

## Coming Events continued

March 14, 2015

The 10th Annual **Genealogy For You Seminar** is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library at 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas. Make your plans to come to this all Virginia Research Day featuring Barbara Vines Little.

March 21, 2015

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program “Walks Through History” is in the Benton Commercial Historic District. See page 10 for more details

March 27-28, 2015

Hill Country Family History Seminar, Boerne, Texas. For more info [www.gskctx.org](http://www.gskctx.org).

April 25, 2015

The 2015 Indiana Genealogical Society’s Annual Meeting and Conference will be in Terre Haute, Indiana. Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist, will be the featured speaker. Follow this [LINK](#) to their website.

April 25, 2015

Ohio Chapter Palatines to America 2015 Spring Seminar. For more information [CLICK](#).

## Coming Events continued

May 13-16, 2015

The NGS Family History Conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri, at the St. Charles Convention Center. It is not too early to make hotel reservations, the Embassy Suites is sold out. Follow this [LINK](#) to the NGS website for hotel information. Conference registration is now open with [Early Bird pricing](#) through March.

June 5 & 6, 2015

The Searcy County Historical Society is sponsoring the 26th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, *What Are You Doing With Your Civil War Information?* More information is available at: [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

June 11-13, 2015

Cumberland Gap 5th annual Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Day to be held in Cumberland Gap, TN (Very rich historical area). Street festival, live music, vendors, speakers, genealogy clubs, dna groups, and authors. Three counties, three states, one event. For more information go to <http://genealogyjamboree.us>.

June 26-27, 2015

Palatines to America 2015 Conference, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For more information [CLICK](#).

July 31- August 2, 2015

The Sheldon Family Association will gather for the 76th Annual Meeting and Reunion July 31- August 2, 2015 at LaQuinta in Sacramento CA. The host, Betty Knopf, will arrange lectures about Sheldon history and trips to Sheldon sites. Information from the 121,000 descendant database will be available. See our web site [Sheldonfamilyv2.org](http://Sheldonfamilyv2.org).

## Coming Events continued

October 2-3, 2015

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference will feature Josh Taylor. The location is to be announced.

Watch our website for the details. [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

October 18-28, 2015

11th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise hosted by Heritage Books, Inc. in consultation with Wholly Genes, Inc. For more information please see page 7.

May 4-7, 2016

The NGS 2016 Family History Conference will be held 4-7 May 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.

## 11th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise

The following is from [www.heritagebooks.com](http://www.heritagebooks.com).

Join us for an educational and fun-filled voyage from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Aruba then on to Cartagena, Colombia; Panama Canal and Colon, Panama; Limon, Costa Rica; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; and back to Ft. Lauderdale, while we learn about genealogical research methods, sources, tools, technologies and DNA from some of the foremost experts in those fields. You will be among friends (old and new) and fellow researchers from around the world as you soak up new knowledge and skills through a lecture series that rivals any regional or national genealogy conference - but at one remarkably-low price that includes meals, taxes, port charges, onboard entertainment, and conference events. As popular as our lecture series is, many veterans of our conference value something else even more. That is the opportunity to share a meal with a world-class genealogist or to schedule one-on-one time to discuss their specific research challenges. Come armed with your records and be prepared to hear about new resources, repositories, and finding aids that will help you to break down those brick walls. Some people find these private consultations alone to be worth the trip. Several evening group brick wall discussions add to the learning experience. Twenty seminar sessions with a focus on genetic genealogy, using DNA as one of the tools for research, are presented by the preeminent experts in their fields. Bring your spouse/companion who will find plenty to do on board while you enhance your research skills. Then spend the meals, evenings, and port days together for a truly memorable vacation! What could be better than a cruise to the warm waters of the Caribbean, and a first-class genealogy conference all rolled into one??? This event is very popular so register early for the best stateroom selection!

The dates for this cruise are October 18-28, 2015

## Four New Historical Markers Approved

The following is republished from [Arkansas Toothpick](#)

LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has approved applications for Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers in Conway, Hempstead and Ashley counties, ACWSC Chairman Tom Dupree announced December 27, 2014.

The newly approved markers are:

- Conway County in the Civil War/Murder of John Clayton, sponsored by Plumerville United Methodist Church to commemorate the Union and Confederate troops raised in the county and the Reconstruction-era murder of a Republican politician; it will be located adjacent to the United Methodist Church in Plumerville
- Confederate State Capital, sponsored by Historic Washington State Park to commemorate Washington's time as the Confederate seat of government; it will be located at the 1836 Hempstead County Courthouse in the park
- Hempstead County in the Civil War, sponsored by the Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation to commemorate Confederate troops and politicians from the county; it will be located in the Washington Cemetery
- Third Arkansas Infantry Regiment, sponsored by the Col. Francis Vivian Brooking Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to commemorate a Confederate infantry unit raised in the area; it will be located at the Ashley County Courthouse in Hamburg.

Through the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker Program, the ACWSC works with local partners to help tell the stories of how the Civil War affected communities around the state. The Commission hopes that there will be at least one marker in each of the state's 75 counties by the end of the commemoration in 2015. Counties that currently do not have Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers are Bradley, Calhoun, Craighead, Crawford, Franklin, Fulton, Hot Spring, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Montgomery, Newton, Polk, Randolph, Sevier and Sharp.

## **Four New Historical Markers Approved *continued***

To date, 99 markers in 58 counties have been approved. Marker applications are available at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/markers.aspx>.

For more information on sesquicentennial plans, visit <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/> or e-mail [acwsc@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:acwsc@arkansasheritage.org).

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is housed within the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The AHPP is the Department of Arkansas Heritage agency responsible for identifying, evaluating, registering and preserving the state's cultural resources. Other agencies are the Arkansas Arts Council, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Old State House Museum, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the Historic Arkansas Museum.

## Walk Through the Benton Commercial Historic District

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.



March 21, 2015 walk is of the Benton Commercial Historic District

Begin at the Saline County Courthouse, 200 N. Main Street, Benton.

Co-sponsored by the Saline County Library and the Saline County History and Heritage Society.

Anchored by the 1902 Charles Thompson-designed Saline County Courthouse, the district includes commercial-style buildings constructed during the early twentieth century, when Benton prospered due to the county's abundance of natural resources like timber, clay and bauxite.

## Create Multimedia Timelines on Your Devices

The following is from [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#).

HSTRY is a FREE multimedia timeline creation tool that will work on your laptop, Chromebook, iPad, or tablet. It is designed for classroom use by teachers and students. However, I think it is also a great tool for use in history and genealogy. The first application that springs to mind is showing historical events that happened during an ancestor's lifetime. Another use is to record the births, marriages, deaths, and other important events within a family over a period of years, possibly over centuries.

HSTRY is free to use to create and share timelines. The company does offer some pre-made timelines for sale.

You can read an introduction to HSTRY by Richard Byrne at <http://goo.gl/Db3nvS>. A Step-By-Step Guide to Creating a Timeline on Hstry is available at <http://www.hstry.co/blog/a-step-by-step-guide-to-creating-a-timeline-on-hstry>.

HSTRY is available at <http://www.hstry.co>.

## Death Master File Proposed Final Rule Comment Period

Thanks to a posting from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, we learned the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) planned to publish a notice in the Federal Register Tuesday, December 30, 2014. This notice will trigger a 30 day comment period.

Fred Moss of the Records Preservation and Access Committee, a joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical Society, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies posts the following on the [www.FGS.ORG](http://www.FGS.ORG) site:

RPAC and its sponsoring organizations are planning to file comments to the proposed final rule. Our comments will be posted to this RPAC Blog when submitted. Other entities and individuals desiring to submit their own comments are encouraged to do so. We would welcome an opportunity to include other such comments in the RPAC Blog with our own. Please provide a copy of your document to us at [access@fgs.org](mailto:access@fgs.org).

You can also read about this situation on the [Social Security Death Master File](#) site. There is a link to the 46 page notice at the FGS link above if you are interested. I have not read the 46 page "government speak" notice, so I cannot give you an informed opinion.

There is also a December 31, 2014 update on the [EOGN](#).

## GenScriber— a Free Transcription Tool

*The following comes from an article in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of December 16, 2014.*

One of the best tools for transcribing old handwritten documents is called GenScriber, a FREE program for Windows and Linux created by Les Hardy. A Macintosh version is also available although it operates as a Windows version packaged inside a wineskin wrapper. While not ideal, the “pseudo-Windows” version is still a reasonable solution for Macintosh users.

GenScriber is a transcription editor for census records, church records, birth, marriage, baptisms, burials, index records, and more. GenScriber is useful for transcribing both free-form text as well as columns of data, such as U.S. census records. It is designed to be used for easily transcribing digital images of old, handwritten documents.

GenScriber is simple to use. First, store the image of the document you wish to transcribe someplace on your hard drive or on external media, such as a flash drive or external hard drive. Launch GenScriber and point it to the folder that holds the document images you want to transcribe, click on the file and then start transcribing. GenScriber displays a “split screen” with the top half of the screen showing the image and the lower half is your worksheet for transcription. Images may be rotated, zoomed and various filters applied.

Unlike the more common method of transcribing to spreadsheets, The GenScriber worksheet is not a spreadsheet. It will not change dates or numerical input. All cell inputs are alphanumeric. No assumptions are made about the data type. Dates and values remain exactly as you entered them.

Of course, any data entry program is only as good as its ability to import from and export to other applications. GenScriber will import and export several different formats. It can import a GEDCOM file. Imported files are always converted to CSV files. Exported files may be in CSV, ODS, XML or GEDCOM formats.

GenScriber is free for non-commercial use. GenScriber may be found at <http://genscriber.com/genapps>. A number of videos showing how to use GenScriber may be found at [http://genscriber.com/genapps/genscriber/help/tips\\_and\\_tutorials/200\\_videos](http://genscriber.com/genapps/genscriber/help/tips_and_tutorials/200_videos).

## World War II Enlistment Records Online

*The following is a December 6, 2014 article in [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#). Only a part of Dick's article is republished here. Please click the link above to the complete article and the links included.*

One great resource available from the U.S. National Archives is the World War II Enlistment Records. These records have been transcribed and made available on the National Archives web site. These records are especially valuable as many of the personnel papers of these soldiers and sailors were later destroyed in a fire.

The National Archives scanned War Department microfilmed punch cards on enlistments to support the reconstruction of the military personnel records at its National Personnel Records Center. That strikes me as a sad commentary about technology: the data was originally stored on punch cards which, once upon a time, could be read by machines. I haven't seen a punch card reader in operation for many years, however. The cards were eventually microfilmed for long-term preservation.

Nine million records were later transcribed manually by humans who sat and read the microfilms and transcribed the information onto keyboards. Due to the condition of the microfilms, approximately 1.5 million records could not be scanned. Scanning problems when the microfilms were created also contributed to the errors. Despite these challenges, information about a majority of sixteen million World War II servicemen and women is available via the web site.

Here is a link to [The National Archives Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#) webpage. From this link you will be able to search.

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## **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [doug44mann@gmail.com](mailto:doug44mann@gmail.com) –Thanks!

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