



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 10, No. 11, November, 2015

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

Please know that I appreciate your subscription to this newsletter! Yes, I mean you personally, not you collectively. Each and every one of you, individually.

How do I put this letter together each month? I am glad you asked! My web browser has 30 sites bookmarked just for the Ezine. Four newsletters come to my inbox monthly. Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter comes daily! Various AGS members send input by email from time to time. As you can imagine, more is available that could possibly be included in the AGS Ezine. The content you get here is a small part of what I see. What I see is a small part of what can be seen online.

So, how do I know what you might find useful? It is just a judgement call. Publishing this newsletter consumes a good number of hours each month, by your editor and three of our members who volunteer to proof read. This newsletter is for YOU, so please feel free (encouraged) to make suggestions. My email address is on the last page. The Ezine is only good if you benefit from reading it.

Thanks again for reading.

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 –

Records held at the Belfast (Maine) Free Library are being transcribed and placed online. Belfast is the county seat for Waldo County so the library has long collected records from all the towns in the county. The transcriptions and publishing are an ongoing effort. You can read more on [Eastman's Online Genealogy NewsLetter](#).

Do you use social media? Do you use social media for genealogy? Do you even know what social media is? You might want to read Gena Philibert-Ortega's September 21, 2015 post on [Genealogy Bank](#), *A Guide to Using Social Media for Genealogy*.

Ancestry.com adds 220 million searchable historical records from Mexico. If this is of interest to you, I suggest you read the article on Genealogy's Star blog. You can read it at this link: <http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2015/10/ancestrycom-adds-220-million-searchable.html>.

Coming Events

November 1-6, 2015

NGS Guided Research Trip to Washington, D.C. under the guidance of Patricia Walls Stamm, CGsm, CGLsm, Craig Roberts Scott, CG, FUGA, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS, FVGS. This event is SOLD OUT. For more information, or to be put on a waiting list for the trip, visit http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences_events/research_tips/dc_research_trip.

November 6, 2015

Sandwiching in History with the [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#) will be at the Thomas M. Clifton House, 1423 S. Summit St., Little Rock at 12:00 noon.

November 7, 2015

A free tombstone cleaning and repair workshop at the Cato Cemetery three miles west of Batesville Pike by Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration. Contact Holly Hope at (501) 324-9880 to register. Check page 13 of the October Ezine for the details.

November 7, 2015

The Tennessee Genealogical Society Fall Seminar will be at the Germantown Church of Christ, 8723 Poplar Pike, Germantown, Tennessee. D. Joshua Taylor will be the speaker. For more information visit the [TNGS](#) website.

November 7, 2015

The Pope County Library will host a Beginning Genealogy Workshop from 10 AM to Noon at the Katie Murdoch Genealogy and History Room in the Russellville Library. For those that plan to attend, please RSVP Charity Park or Lori Latimer by calling 479-968-4368 or email Charity at cpark@popelibrary.org.

Coming Events continued

November 9, 2015

Genealogy Class, 3:30 p.m. at the [Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#), 401 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, AR. Please contact Rhonda Stewart, Genealogy and Local History Specialists, at rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us.

November 14, 2015

Walks Through History by the [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#) will be at the Landers Theater, 332 E. Main St., Batesville, Arkansas at 11:00 a.m.

November 14, 2015

The Sequoyah National Research Center and the Arkansas History Commission will be hosting a free half-day symposium from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 14 at Stabler Hall, Room 107 on the UALR campus in Little Rock. See page 6-7 for the AHC press release.

November 23, 2015

The Heritage Seekers meet 6:30 p.m. at the Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanon, Little Rock, Arkansas. George Mitchell, AGS president, will present *Everything in one Place: using Evernote to Organize You Genealogy*. There will be no meeting in December.

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. Hotel reservations are now open at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/accommodations>.

Coming Events continued

June 12–17, 2016

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University Library, week-long event will be in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration will be open at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (10:00 a.m. Central) on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. [Click here](#) to go to their website.

August 31– September 3, 2016

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be held in Springfield, Illinois. See www.fgs.org for the details.

September 18–25, 2016

The 3rd Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise, hosted by Heritage Books, Inc. will depart from Galveston, Texas. Visit HeritageBooks.com.

American Indians and Alaska Natives in America's Wars

Press release from the Arkansas History Commission

Little Rock -The Sequoyah National Research Center and the Arkansas History Commission will be hosting a free half-day symposium from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, at Stabler Hall, Room 107 on the UALR campus in Little Rock. The symposium's theme, American Indians and Alaska Natives in America's Wars, will feature speakers Mary Jane Warde, Erin Fehr, Dr. Bob Sanderson, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, Jane Wilkerson, and Karen Russ.

Topics include The Destroying Hand of War, Alaska Natives and Their World War II Service in the Alaska Territorial Guard, Vietnam Warriors, and Resources for Studying Native Americans in America's Wars.

The symposium is free and a light lunch will be provided. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Registration is limited. The deadline for registration will be Monday, November 9, so be sure to register soon.

Associated with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Sequoyah National Research Center maintains the largest collection of Native American expression in the world and works to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans. The Arkansas History Commission, located in Little Rock, is the official state archives of Arkansas and maintains the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world.

American Indians and Alaska Natives in America's Wars *continued*

For more information about the symposium, please call 501-682-6900 or email history.commission@arkansas.gov.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Verify Every Source

The following is republished from an October 11, 2015, piece on [Genealogy By Barry](#). Barry has a lot of good material on his website.

Ask for documentation. Never be shy about asking for documentation from another researcher when they have shared information with you. Again, without the paper records in hand, nothing is proven.

Always verify. There is never a time when you should not verify information you have received.

Through the years, I have found critical errors in what I downloaded. It often appears that genealogists wanted so desperately to extend the line or make a connection that they jumped to conclusions in their research, which caused other genealogists to research someone else's family lines. Often the answers they were looking for were right before their eyes.

- I verify everything for myself.
- Family myths are just that, myths, unless you check and double-check
- Do not automatically accept a version of ancestry from another person.
- Make no assumptions.
- Don't believe everything you read; adopt a "show me" attitude.
- Search for the source.
- Seek to find the referenced source.
- View the original online.
- Primary sources were created at or close to the time of the event by someone with personal knowledge of the event (for example, a birth date provided by the family doctor for the birth certificate). Primary evidence usually carries more weight than secondary evidence.
- If the record you are seeing is a photocopy, digital copy, or microfilm copy of the original source, then it is likely to be a valid representation.

Verify Every Source *continued*

- Compiled records (which include abstracts, transcriptions, indexes, and published family histories) are more likely to have missing information or transcription errors. If you find these records, it's in your best interest to track down the original sources.
- Think about the possible source. When you find information that doesn't provide you a source for the database or website, ask yourself what kind of record could have supplied the information. For example, if it's an exact date of birth, then the source is most likely a birth certificate or tombstone inscription. If it is an approximate year of birth, then it may have come from a census record or marriage record.
- Use the "sanity checks" built into the better genealogy programs! The exact name of this feature may vary from one program to another, but all the better genealogy programs have the capability to find suspicious data within a database. These built-in quality checks help you quickly identify questionable data, such as very young girls or elderly women giving birth. When your software identifies such data, examine the evidence closely.

How About Vertical Files?

From [Upfront With NGS](#), September 1, 2012

Have you checked out the vertical files held in the community where you are doing research?

One of my earliest and best finds were tax lists for Wake County (NC) for 1810 & 1820. These had been published in publications not readily available and copies were placed in a vertical file in what is now called the [Government and Heritage Library](#) (State Library of North Carolina). These tax lists are important because the census doesn't survive for this county for those years! Copies of those copies proudly sit in my library.

This article [Six genealogy secrets found in the library's vertical file](#) gives you some insight into what you might find if you haven't ever looked at vertical files in the course of your research.

And, vertical files aren't limited to local libraries and archives, university libraries often also have some, such as the [University of Michigan](#) and The [University of North Carolina Greensboro](#), as well as historical society libraries like [The Filson Historical Society](#). These have online indexes so that you can see what material might be available in vertical files.

Can't get to a local repository to check out its vertical files? First, check for an online index (as mentioned above) and then you can query about how you might gain access. Second, a really neat trend over the last few years has been the digitization of vertical files. Now, due to copyright and privacy issues not everything in a vertical file can be digitized and you still want to check out such efforts.

How About Vertical Files? *continued*

For example, here are some NC examples of vertical files which have been digitized!

- + [Richard B. Harrison Library Vertical Files](#) (DigitalNC)
- + [Hickory Public Library Business Vertical Files](#) (DigitalNC)
- + [Government and Heritage Library Vertical Files](#) (North Carolina Digital Collections)

Just because vertical files are low tech and often not online, does not mean you shouldn't consider looking into them.

Every time I start a project on a new family, I check the vertical files at the Government and Heritage Library (yes, in person, even though they are digitized, because I can) to see if there is a folder for that family. I have found family association newsletters, copies of family bible pages, family trees, newspaper cuttings, and so much more!

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National Digital Newspaper Program

The newspapers published during your ancestors' lifetime can be an important resource for genealogical research. It is important to be familiar with the events in the area at the time. The events may shed some light on why your ancestor took a particular action. You may even find a mention of the person. In the past we had to travel to the location where the newspapers were available. Each day more newspapers are being made available on the internet.

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of October 26, 2015 has an article about the National Digital Newspaper Program. Here is an excerpt from his article:

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress have partnered to enhance access to historic newspapers for many years with the National Digital Newspaper Program. This long-term effort has developed an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Best of all, the information on the National Digital Newspaper Program is available free of charge. Millions of newspaper pages are available.

I suggest you read the article on the [EOGN website](#). There you will find a link to the National Digital Newspaper Program. Happy hunting.

New Book Press Release, Three Tribes of Little People

I received the following by email from The Melting Pot Genealogical Society of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Robert Perry, author of the five-star customer reviewed Three Tribes of Little People, captures the essence of tribal culture during the early years in Oklahoma. The book will premiere Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library located at 350 N Wood Avenue in Florence, AL. At the premiere, author Robert Perry will speak about the research and personal interviews he conducted during the collection of stories used in his latest release.

Robert Perry is a man who has dedicated much of his life to the Chickasaw Nation. He is an accomplished engineer, author, and former member of the Chickasaw Advisory Council. Perry has also served on the National Board of Directors of the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, as well as the Chickasaw Historical Society. As an author, Robert Perry has published three books.

“Written in vividly descriptive language, these stories paint pictures of little people in days gone by and illustrate they are still with us today.”

Rebecca Hatcher Travis, Chickasaw author

three tribes of little people

by Robert Perry

Paperback: 106 pages

Publisher: Bluewater Publishing

ISBN-10: 193461095X

ISBN-13: 978-1934610954

Internet Archive—a Free gem that just keeps getting better

The following article was from [UpFront with NGS](#) on January 30, 2015

The Internet Archive is a fabulous place to hang out.

I was surprised to see that I haven't written about it as much as I thought!

My two favorite uses of it are:

1. The wayback machine. You know how websites have a tendency to disappear or their URLs change, etc? Well, via the wayback machine, you might find that there is a “saved” copy of the webpage you seek.

2. The textual archive. So many out-of-copyright (and mostly out-of-print) books are part of this archive. Some of my favorites are old directories, compiled legal & legislative information, county histories, church histories & records, and many many more neat resources.

This all came to mind when I read the article [Never trust a corporation to do a library's job](#). Though the focus of the article is how Google has abandoned some of its plans for archiving, it also talks glowingly how the Internet Archive has been (since 1996) and increasingly is expanding what it archives and makes FREELY available to us!

Read the article and play around with Internet Archive. I warn you though, don't start in unless you have a few hours to spend so you can get lost in not just the genealogically relevant bits and also in the video, film, audio and live music collections!

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Ulster Historical Foundation's 2016 North American Lecture Tour Dates

The following was received by email

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION'S 2016 NORTH AMERICAN LECTURE TOUR DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

We are pleased to announce the dates and places where our Executive Director Fintan Mullan and our Research Officer Gillian Hunt will be speaking in March 2016. Further details of times, venues and booking information will be available nearer the time.

- ◆ Saturday 05-Mar-16 Toronto, ON Full day session
- ◆ Sunday 06-Mar-16 Boston, MA Full day session
- ◆ Monday 07-Mar-16 STILL AVAILABLE
- ◆ Tuesday 08-Mar-16 Philadelphia, PA Afternoon session
- ◆ Wednesday 09-Mar-16 Leesburg VA Full day session
- ◆ Friday 11-Mar-16 Salt Lake City, UT Full day session
- ◆ Saturday 12-Mar-16 Portland, OR Full day session
- ◆ Sunday 13-Mar-16 Portland, OR Afternoon session
- ◆ Monday 14-Mar-16 Chehalis, WA Full day session
- ◆ Tuesday 15-Mar-16 Newberry, Chicago, IL Afternoon/evening session
- ◆ Wednesday 16-Mar-16 Fountaindale, IL Full day session
- ◆ Thursday 17-Mar-16 Memphis, TN Full day session
- ◆ Saturday 19-Mar-16 Pittsburgh, PA Full day session
- ◆ Sunday 20-Mar-16 York Co., PA Afternoon session
- ◆ Tuesday 22-Mar-16 Halifax, NS Full day session

Ulster Historical Foundation's 2016 North American Lectures *continued*

Please note that Monday 7 March 2016 is still available. If you live in the northeast corridor (In states such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland or Pennsylvania) and your genealogical or historical society would be interested in hosting us, please email enquiry@uhf.org.uk.

We are also taking expressions of interest for our 2017 lecture tour at this time. The Foundation will speak anywhere where we are invited, please get in touch with us at enquiry@uhf.org.uk for further information.

Here is a link to <http://www.ancestryireland.com/latest-news/2015-north-american-lecture-tour/>

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation

The following is republished from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library. To subscribe to “Genealogy Gems,” simply use your browser to go to the website: www.GenealogyCenter.org. Scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.

No matter where our journey in search of our ancestors takes us, there is one thing nearly every genealogist has in common - we collect paper! Even those who have gone mostly digital probably have some precious papers that need to be preserved for future generations - ancestral photographs, certificates, diplomas, and military discharge papers that have been handed down through the family, and more. The genealogy Facebook groups are full of questions about how to preserve important papers. Information about this subject can be found online, and your local library probably has resources you can consult as well.

Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet is an online resource that can help you find information about preservation of paper, as well as of other types of heirlooms and artifacts. See the category Preservation and Conservation at <http://cyndislist.com/preservation/>. The Library of Congress also has information on paper preservation: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html>

If you are interested in finding a book on the subject, check your local library’s catalog and use search terms like “paper preservation.” Some of the volumes available in The Genealogy Center include:

“How to Protect Valuable Family Treasures: Paper, Books and Photographs,” 929 M96h.

“Preservation and Conservation for Libraries and Archives,” 929 B214p.

“Practical Preservation: Simple Steps You Can Take to Protect Historic Documents, Photographs and Books,” 929 P875hs.

“Scrapbook Storytelling - Save Family Stories and Memories with Photos, Journaling and Your Own Creativity,” 929 SL13s.

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation *continued*

“An Ounce of Preservation: A Guide to the Care of Papers and Photographs,” 929 T88o. Additional copies of this title are available to be checked out from Reader’s Services and the Hessen Cassel branch with the call number 025.84 T88o.

“A Preservation Guide: Saving the Past and the Present for the Future,” 929 SA18p.

Indirect Evidence

The following is from Harold Henderson's [Midwestern Microhistory, A Genealogy Blog](#).

[Genealogy experiments with indirect evidence](#)

That's the title of my article just published in the September issue of On Board, the newsletter of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. It's about how indirect evidence worked in my earlier article about the family of Indiana natives John H. and his wife Elizabeth (Smith) Smith, who ended up in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

On Board appears three times a year and anyone with \$15 to spare can [subscribe here](#). Or you can read selected articles from past issues for free on the [BCG's website](#) here. The NGS Quarterly is a benefit of membership in the [National Genealogical Society](#).

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! doug44mann@gmail.com –Thanks!

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