



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 11, No. 11, November, 2016

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

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!

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall 2016 Seminar afforded a great time to see old friends and make new ones and to experience another great offering. It is fun to share stories of success with each other and learn about new resources. Of course, there are also the programs. I cannot say which is more important, the presentations or the associations!

Mark's performance, as always, was well worth the time and expense. All four presentations were useful and informative for me. Did you notice the use of "performance" instead of "presentation?" When Mark is on the stage, it is a performance and a presentation. The smiles on the faces led me to believe the audience was engaged and enjoying.

I am glad that I attended the second presentation by Jeff Meek. Regretfully, I missed the first one. Jeff related his experiences in interviewing Veterans for the project in the second session, and he really held our attention. Jeff's story is one of a plan for "retiring to Arkansas to fish" gone awry. Jeff Meek got "caught up" in the [Library of Congress Veterans History Project](#) and the community of veterans accepted him in a big way. The world of family history and genealogy is fortunate to have Jeff engaged in this project. The work he is doing will benefit generations to come.

A big thanks to those who attended the seminar. The support you provide in attending and in buying from the vendors is the only way the AGS can continue providing these seminars. A list of vendors and exhibitors who were present is listed on page 14 for your convenience.

Mark your calendars for next year's Seminar, October 20–21, 2017. Our presenter will be [D. Joshua Taylor](#). I hope to see you there! Register early and give us the challenge of finding a larger venue!

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Tidbits —

Once thought lost to a fire, photographs of friends, family, landscapes, and strangers taken in North Louisiana and South Arkansas during the late 70's to mid-80's by well-known artist and musician, Richard Leo Johnson, are on display for the first time in Arkansas. This display will be in the Butler Center Galleries, 401 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock, Arkansas, from December 9, 2016, through March 18, 2017.

Reclaim The Records announced in their September 30, 2016, newsletter that the New York City marriage index for 1950 to 1995 is now ONLINE! You can read the entire newsletter on their [website](#) and you can search the [NYC Marriage Index](#) on their new website.

Early marriage indexes of African Americans are now available online. The Special Collections Research Center at University of Kentucky Libraries and the Fayette County Clerk's Office developed a pilot project that will provide online access to the Colored Marriage Indexes dated 1866-1882 and 1958-1968. This is from an October 14, 2016, article on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. Please access it from [EOGN](#) to take advantage of the several links in Dick's article.

Coming Events

November 2, 2016

Legacies & Lunch: Judge Morris Arnold, 12:00 noon, at the [Butler Center For Arkansas Studys](#), main library Dar-
ragh Center, 100 Rock St. Little Rock, Arkansas. An illustrated talk describing all classes of eighteenth-century
Arkansas women, from the elite wives and daughters of military commandants who had connections to the roy-
al court at Versailles to the captive Indian and white women who were the objects of sexual trafficking.

November 4, 2016.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [Sandwiching in History](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at the John F.
Weinmann House, 2214 S. Battery Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

November 5, 2016

[Tennessee Genealogical Society Seminar](#) will be in Germantown, TN. The speaker will be Thomas MacEntee, a
genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media. Germantown is southeast of
Memphis, Tennessee, about 160 miles from Little Rock.

November 12, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be from 11 AM to 1 PM at Downtown Brinkley, 100
W. Cypress Street, Brinkley, Arkansas.

December 2016

[Heritage Seekers](#) normally meets at 6:30 at the Second Presbyterian Church at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little
Rock. There will be NO MEETING in December!!!

Coming Events continued

December 2, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's [*Sandwiching in History*](#) will be from 12 PM to 1 PM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 310 W. Seventeenth Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

December 7, 2016

Legacies & Lunch: Mark Christ, 12:00 noon, at the [Butler Center For Arkansas Studies](#), main library Darragh Center, 100 Rock St. Little Rock, Arkansas. Christ will examine the recently completed sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War, its successes and failures, and its impact on Arkansas's history and economy.

December 10, 2016

The Arkansas Historic Preservation's [Walks Thru History](#) will be at the Selma Methodist Church and Selma Rosenwald School (Drew County) northeast of the intersection of AR Highway 293 and Able's Creek Road, from 11 AM to 1 PM.

December 12, 2016

Genealogy Class at the [Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#), 401 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, Arkansas from 3:30 to 5:00. Contact Rhonda Stewart rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us for more information.

May 10-13, 2017

The National Genealogical Society's 2017 Family History Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, NC. Conference Registration begins December 1, 2016. Hotels began accepting reservations for the conference on June 15, 2016.

Coming Events continued

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](#).

August 30-September 2, 2017

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

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.

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.

Coming Events continued

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.

You Must Leave the House

With the September 2013 issue of the Ezine, I assumed the role of editor. That would mean year number 4 as editor began with the September 2016 issue of the Ezine. How can time pass so quickly? Of course, this is not a one person job. We have three very good proof readers; Susan Boyle (previous editor), Rebecca Wilson, and Mary Cooper Miller. Thank you so much, ladies!

During the process of looking for content to include in the Ezine, I have learned so much about all things genealogical. I hope you have added to your skills, too. Now, I am finally getting to my point! The amount of genealogy information that can be accessed online, from the comfort of our homes, is large, to be sure. However, the information available on the internet is “the tip of the iceberg.” This is not the first time I have written about this fact in the Ezine, and it probably won’t be the last time, either. The October 21, 2016, article on [The Daily Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) by Dick Eastman says it very well. Instead of just pointing you to the article on his website, I am republishing it here so that there will be a better chance you will take the time to read it. PLEASE! And notice the links at the end of the article.

I received a message a while ago from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, “I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet.” He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information. In short, he was disappointed at how little information he has found online.

I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: “... but only through the Internet.”

Doesn’t he realize that perhaps 90% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the Internet?

To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the “low hanging fruit” a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefited a lot of genealogists; these databases were the first to become indexed, digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are available today and are in common use.

You Must Leave the House *continued*

As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online.

Of course, this is great news for genealogists who cannot easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept. For many of us, this is even better than having information on microfilm. Most of us don't have microfilm readers at home, but we do have computers.

Yet, I am guessing that perhaps 90% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized. Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information "... only through the Internet?"

State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all "work in progress" projects. That is, they are not yet complete. In fact, I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another decade or two! If you only look online, you are missing a lot.

In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, land records (other than Federal land grants), state census records, and many more records are not yet available online and probably won't be available for years. If you are limiting yourself to "... only through the Internet," you are missing 90% of the available information.

If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I'd suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hand. Scan them or make photocopies or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records.

If you do not enjoy the luxury of short distances, use microfilm. Luckily, that is easy to do although you will have to leave your home. Many (but not all) of these records have been microfilmed, and those films may be viewed at various libraries, archives, or at a local Family History Center near you. There are more than 4,600 of those local centers, so you probably can find one within a short distance of your home. The Family History Centers are free to use although you do have to pay a modest fee for postage when you rent a microfilm by mail. See <https://goo.gl/7Jzbzh> for details. You can also find your nearest Family History Center by starting at: <https://familysearch.org/locations/>.

You Must Leave the House *continued*

If you do not know where to start, I would suggest reading “Begin your genealogy quest” at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Begin_your_genealogy_quest for some great “getting started” information.

Which option would you prefer: accessing 10% of the available records or 100% of the available records?

FGS Mexican War Project

The following is from a September 14, 2016 piece in [The Ancestry Insider](#).

At their 2016 conference the [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) announced both the completion of their Preserve the Pensions project and the beginning of a new one. FGS is teaming up with the [Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park](#) of the National Park System to build a database of more than 130,000 soldiers of the U.S.-Mexican War. Efforts will be made to also include unit histories, digitized documents, and Mexican soldiers.

“FGS is thrilled to partner with the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park for this important preservation project,” said FGS President D. Joshua Taylor. “We look forward to working with our member societies and volunteers to provide new access to records for those researching the Mexican War.”

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Park Service partnered together in 1999 for the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database project where FGS volunteers completed data entry for more than five million names. The efforts of the CWSS project can now be experienced on the [NPS Civil War website](#).

Volunteers are needed for three different aspects of the project:

Indexers and arbitrators are needed to index the compiled military service Records of Federal soldiers and the pension Index files. This will be a closed project using the FamilySearch indexing program. You will need a free FamilySearch account and we will have to give you authorization. If you want to participate, please send your FamilySearch username so that we can add you to the project and give you access to the images. I may be prejudiced, but I think the FamilySearch indexing software is easy to use. However, if you are not familiar with the system, FGS will be glad to train you. While the pension index records are available now on the FamilySearch website, FamilySearch didn't index the military unit. (That appears on the surface to be a failure on FamilySearch's account, but they did it with good reason. I will try to remember to explain why in a future article. But I digress.) This indexing project will add the missing information.

Indexers are needed to enter information from various typed military documents into Excel spreadsheets. FGS will try to allow you to work with the states you are interested in. Each company has about 100 names.

Researchers are needed to locate rosters and other reliable sources for units that are missing soldier names. It may help if you are familiar with research in particular states.

If you are interested in helping out, contact Projects@fgs.org with your name, email, and FamilySearch username (if applicable). Indicate which particular part of the project you are interested in working on.

New York City Directories On Line

This posting is from the [New York Public Library](#) website

New York Public Library is digitizing its collection of [New York City Directories](#), 1786 through 1922/3, serving them free through the [NYPL Digital Collections](#) portal. The first batch—1849/50 through 1923—have already been scanned, and the 1786-1848/9 directories are right now being scanned. The whole collection will be going online over the coming months. Staff at NYPL are currently teaching computers to read the wobbly typeset, to interpret the strange abbreviations, and the occasionally slightly less than geometric layout of the directories to make the old print text machine readable. The goal is to make the directories text searchable in powerful new ways, in order to build datasets that will inform research in New York City history, genealogy, and beyond. More technical posts on this work will follow.



The New York Public Library has a more detailed article on their blog. You can read it on their blog at <https://www.nypl.org/blog/beta/2016/09/21/new-york-city-directories-free-online>

Arkansas State Archives New Collection

From the September issue of *The Arkansas Archivist*

George Sylvester McCue was the son of an Irish immigrant who joined the army just before the Spanish American War in 1898. After the war, he spent time stationed in the Philippines, holding the rank of Second Lieutenant. A decade later, he was stationed in the American Southwest and Mexico City during the United States' search for Pancho Villa. In 1917, McCue came to Arkansas to train soldiers at Camp Pike. That year he also became a Mason, posing for a photograph alongside hundreds of fellow Masons on the front steps of Albert Pike Consistory, a building that would within a few short years, be destroyed by fire and replaced with the current Masonic Temple in downtown Little Rock. After the war, McCue retired to Los Angeles, California, where he died in 1945. After McCue's wife died, McCue's grandson, Jeffrey S. Seldonridge inherited the collection, which he has generously donated to the State Archives.

The collection contains two panoramic photographs, one of the Masonic temple mentioned above, and one of the training officer staff at Camp Pike in 1917. Additionally, the collection contains McCue's Masonic certificate inducting him into the organization. We are certainly glad to have these photos and are thankful to Mr. Seldonridge for donating them!

You can read the past issues of [The Arkansas Archivist](#) on the Arkansas State Archives Website. There you will also find a link where you can join their mailing list.

History Tidbit

The following comes from *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 148, June 30, 2016*

History Tidbits: Land Boundaries

by Allison DePrey Singleton

Compared to European nations, the United States is a new country. As the population has grown and spread from coast to coast, America's external and internal boundaries lines have evolved. There are some fabulous infographics online that show how state boundaries have changed over time, such as this one from the Newberry Library: <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>. A number of wonderful books in our collection show how land boundaries altered as states were formed and new counties created, including *Land & Property Research in the United States* by E. Wade Hone (GC 973 H755L). Others depict how the boundaries of counties evolved over many decades, such as *The Family Tree Historical Maps Book: A State-By-State Atlas of U.S. History, 1790-1900* by Allison Dolan (GC 973 D685f).

These resources will benefit any research involving land use as it relates to genealogy and local history. When searching for government records, one needs to know what jurisdiction covered the area where the land or person might be based during the specific year in question. For example, if I were searching for government records in Indiana in October 1800, I would look for Indiana Territory records. If I were looking for records on Jennings County, Indiana, from January 1817, I would need to look in Jackson and Jefferson counties. However, if I needed records from Scott County, Indiana, in December 1819, I would search in Jennings County.

Check out the boundary lines for the counties, states, and even countries you are researching. While the United States is a relatively new country, many of the older European countries changed names and boundaries when they underwent unification, such as Germany. A great book in our collection that shows the boundary changes in Europe is *The Family Tree Historical Maps Book Europe: A Country-by-Country Atlas of European History 1700s-1900s* by Allison Dolan (GC 940 D68fa). It includes such Eastern European countries as Romania, Bulgaria, The Balkan States, and Poland, as well as the Russian Empire.

Be sure to click on the link above in this article.

2016 AGS Fall Seminar Vendor and Exhibitor List

2016 Fall Seminar Vendor and Exhibitor List

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email address</u>
<u>National Society of Colonial Dames</u>	Teresa Clark	taclark12@comcast.net
<u>United States Daughters of 1812</u>	Shelia Beatty Krout	beattykrout@suddenlink.net
Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Arkansas Society	Shelia Beatty Krout	beattykrout@suddenlink.net
Diamond Colony of New England Women	Shelia Beatty Krout	beattykrout@suddenlink.net
<u>Dames of the Court of Honor, Arkansas State Society</u>	Judy Coleman	hooch66judy@gmail.com
<u>Home Video Studio</u>	Tim Welch	t.welch@homevideostudio.com
<u>Oakland & Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park</u>	Jan Davenport	oaklandfraternal@gmail.com
<u>Cemetery Preservation Supply LLC</u>	Rusty Brenner	rusty@gravestonecleaner.com
and <u>Historic Cemetery Preservation</u>		
<u>Saline County History and Heritage Society</u>	Steve Perdue	seper66@att.net
<u>Heritage Seekers</u>	Ginney Pumphrey	
<u>Saline County Library</u>		
Poteau Valley Genealogical Society	Arlene LeMaster	alemaster@windstream.net
Friends of the Arkansas State Archives	Tom Dillard	
<u>William F Laman Public Library</u>	Richard Theilig	Richard.theilig@lamanlibrary.org
<u>Tennessee Genealogical Society</u>	Gail Braddock	president@tngs.org
<u>Hearthstone Legacy Publication / My Genealogy Hound</u>	Robert Dabbs	admin@hearthstonelegacy.com
<u>Hot Spring Village Genealogical Society</u>	Jeff Meek	hsvgsmail@gmail.com
<u>SAR—AR Society of the War of 1812</u>	Cory Burns	cdburns183@gmail.com
Ancestry.com / Fold3		support@ancestry.com

Administrative Stuff

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

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