



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 13, No. 2, February 2018

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JOIN US!

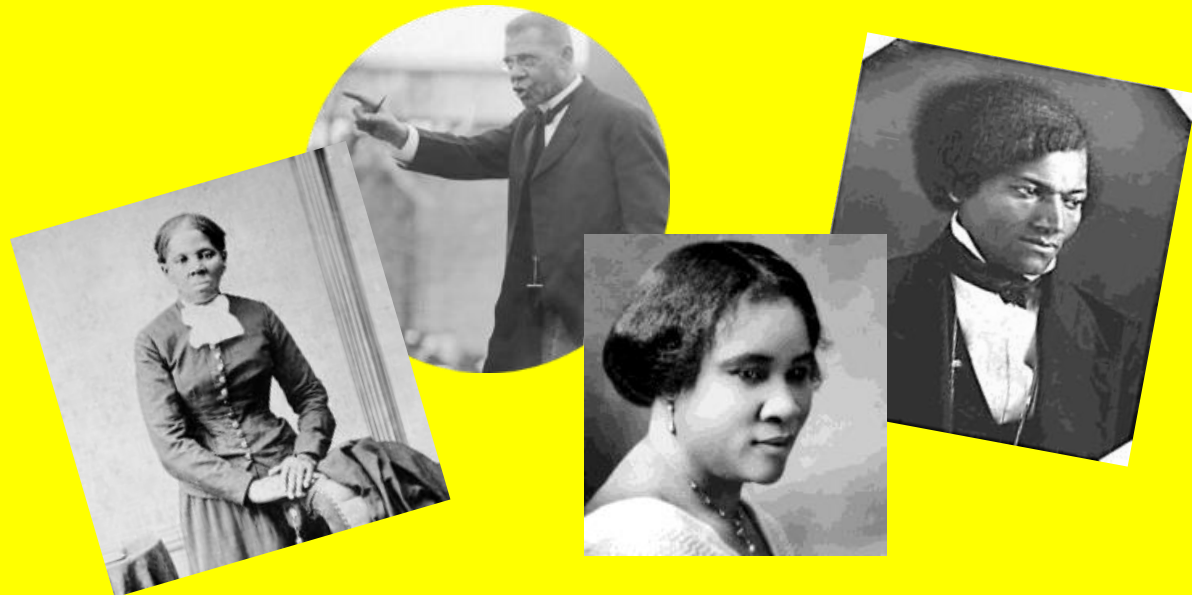
If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[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!

CELEBRATE



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Tidbits —

In honor of Black History Month, I thought it would be a good idea to feature, some of the most common genealogy records for doing African American Genealogy:

1. United States Census Records:
Start with the 1940 and work your way back to 1870.
On the 1870 Census in the South check for Caucasians in the area with the same surname.
2. 1867 Voter Registration Lists
3. Freedmen's Bureau Records: The records date from 1865 to 1872.
They contain marriage, medical, bank and school records for former enslaved people. Freedmen's Bureau also kept labor contracts that often can connect individuals to their former owners.
4. 1860 and 1850 Slave Schedules
5. Newspapers: ads for runaway slaves and obituaries.
6. County Records: Especially wills and probate.
7. Military Records: Especially Civil War Union Pensions.

Coming Events

Feb. 3, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *African Americans in Arkansas's Rural History*, Speakers include Chelsea McNutt, Dr. Simon Hosken, Dr. Cherisse Branch-Jones, and Carmen Williams, 10 a.m. at Mosaic Templars, 501 W. 9th Street Little Rock, Arkansas.

February 26, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *Faithful to Our Tasks: Arkansas' Women & the Great War*, by Elizabeth Hill, 6:30 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

March 3, 2018

SARA 40th! Anniversary, 2-4 p.m. at Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas.

March 26, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy*, by Mike Engles, Genetic Genealogist, 6:30 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

April 17, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, African-American Athletes in Arkansas: Muhammad Ali's Tour, Black Razorbacks & Other Forgotten Stories*, by Evin Demirel, 6:30 p.m. at the Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, located at 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Coming Events *(continued)*

April 20-21, 2018

Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference at Fort Smith.

April 23, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *The Story Beneath the Stone*, by Jan Davenport, Oakland & Fraternal Cemeteries, 6:30 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.

May 21, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *An Armchair Tour of Mount Holly Cemetery*, by Kay Tatum, Registrar Mt. Holly Cemetery, 6:30 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

June 2–7, 2018

[The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#) (IGHR) will be at the Georgia Center's UGA and Hotel Conference Center.

Aug. 21, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Rock Island Railroad in*

Coming Events *(continued)*

Arkansas, by Michael Hibblen, 6:30 p.m. at the Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, located at 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

August 22-25, 2018

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

August 27, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *The Rise & Fall of Napoleon, Arkansas*, by Sheila Moore-Mithell, 6:30 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

October 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Tracing Your Arkansas Roots: Genealogy 101*, speakers include Thea Baker and Diana Gilpin, 9 a.m. at Historic Washington State Park.

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, Professional Genetic Genealogist is scheduled to present.

November 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Hidden History of Fort Smith*, by Ben Boulden, 6:30 p.m. at the Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, located at 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.

Society Blue Books

The following is republished from Colleen Murray's website, <https://www.cmgenealogy.com/single-post/2017/10/25/Society-Blue-Books>. The article written by Colleen Murray, BCom, P.L.C.G.S., Professional Genealogist, was posted October 25, 2017. The points in this article about the use of Blue Books in Toronto can apply to using Blue Books in many urban areas in which they were published.

Recently, a friend introduced me to the Blue Book, a society Who's Who guide. Several editions from the early 1900's for the Toronto area have been digitized and can be consulted by anyone via the [Toronto Public Library Digital Archive](#).

The Toronto area books were first published by Wm. Tyrell & Co., and later taken over by the Dau Publishing company. The digitized books on the library site span between 1902 and 1921, with gaps. Some refer to the Toronto area, others also cover Hamilton and London, Ontario.

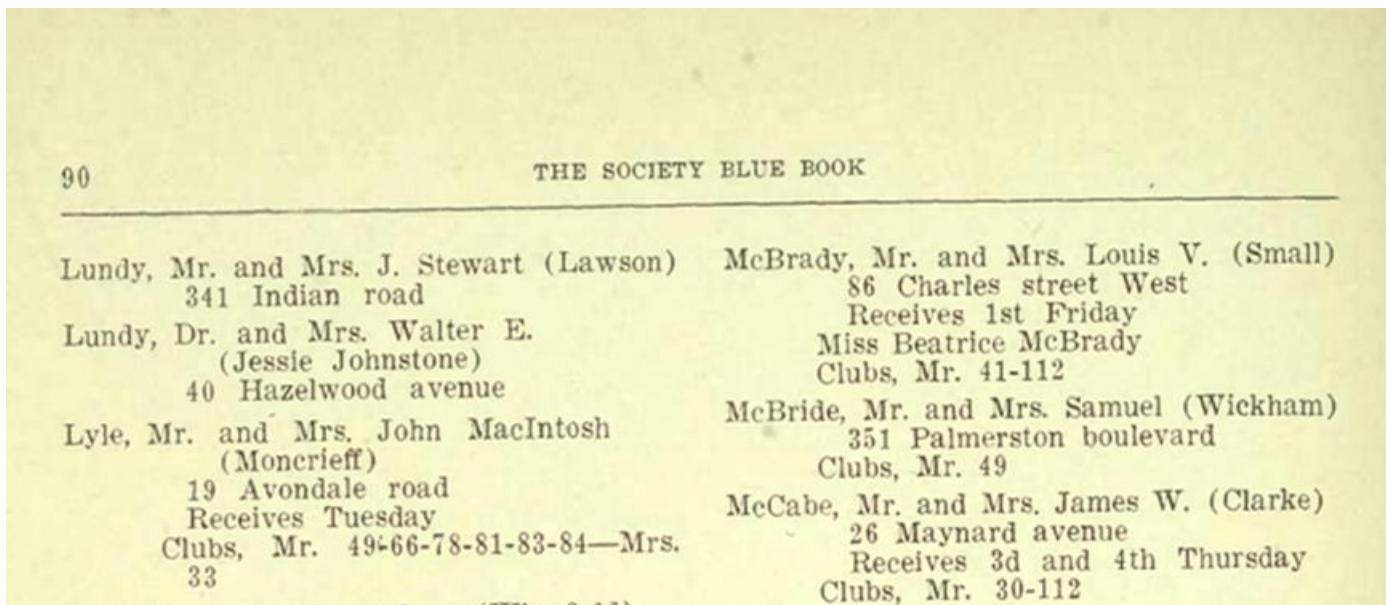
Why the books were created in the first place is best explained by this information from the Preface of the 1910 edition:[1]

“We do not claim the BLUE BOOK is either a City Directory or absolutely an Elite Directory; neither do we pretend to pass upon the social or financial standing of the parties whose names are contained therein. It is simply a compilation of about four thousand names of the most prominent householders of Toronto, Hamilton and London, and numerous smaller towns, published in the most convenient form for reference by our lady patrons. The title “BLUE BOOK” is given the work because of its blue cover. It does not refer to blue blood, as many people suppose.... The data for this work have not been compiled from circulars or from other directories. Experienced men, particularly adapted for such work, have been assigned to each locality, and

Society Blue Books *(continued)*

What might be learned from these books, if you are lucky enough to have an ancestor listed in one?

- Names (sometimes including middle name)
- maiden names
- addresses
- names of children living in the household over the age of 16
- club memberships
- receiving day for company



Society Blue Books (*continued*)

Although these books claimed not to judge on social and financial standing, obviously the reality was that they did just that. When meeting someone new, no doubt the first task for many was to check them out in the Blue Book. Returning to the example above, Mr. Louis V. McBrady was a prominent Toronto lawyer and he and his wife were featured in many early issues of the Blue Book. However, in 1918 he was arrested for defrauding clients, and received a sixty-day jail sentence. [2] The McBrady's do not appear in the 1920 or 1921 Blue Book issues. Possibly this was mere coincidence, but since they were still living in Toronto, it may also have been a sign of social stigma after the scandal.

[1] *The Society Blue Book of Toronto and Hamilton* (Toronto: Dau Publishing Co., 1909), unpaginated preface; digital image, Toronto Public Library (www.torontopubliclibrary.ca : accessed 25 Oct 2017).

[2] "Lawyer gets jail term," *The Toronto Star*, 4 April 1918, p. 12, col 4, Web Edition (<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/thestar/advancedsearch.html> : accessed 18 May 2015).

What's New: FamilySearch Places

The following is republished from FamilySearch.org website, <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/whats-familysearch-places/>. The article written by Leslie Albrecht Huber and was posted December 21, 2017.



Anyone who has tried to uncover his or her family history knows that place is an integral part of every family's story. The places our ancestors lived shaped their lives and experiences. They also determined what records were created about them. It makes sense, then, that to find our ancestors and understand their lives, we need to learn about the places they came from.

FamilySearch has a new tool called FamilySearch Places, which makes learning about places easier. Although the development of this tool is ongoing, some great features are already available, so you can start using it now.

Getting Started in Your Search

When you open the FamilySearch Places page, you'll see a large map, with the FamilySearch main tabs across the top and a small search box near the upper left corner. Getting started is as easy as typing a place-name in the box. The place can be a town, parish, county, state, or any other kind of

What's New: FamilySearch Places (*continued*)

place. If you aren't sure of the spelling, use wild card in the place-name, such as "Neubrandenb*rg," or use a tilde (~) to search for similar spellings (the tilde is usually found just left of the 1 key on a keyboard). With this flexibility, a search for "Providance~, Utah," would also find "Providence, Utah," and any similar place-names worldwide. The search results show possible place-name matches and identify the types of places they are. You may notice that the places in this database are the same ones used in FamilySearch when "standardizing" place information (such as birthplace or marriage place) about your ancestors.



If any historical constraints exist for a place, those will be included in the search results. For example, a search for "Wisconsin" will list the current state of Wisconsin as well as Wisconsin Territory, which lasted from 1836 to 1848. Such information may help you understand how your ancestor's home has changed through the years and how record-keeping may have changed for that location.

Consider how the following examples could help you re-search the place-names of your ancestors. Suppose that you searched for the place-name "Neukloster." From the results, you would see that this was the name of a town, a commune, and a Lutheran church. Next, suppose that you searched for a town named "Neustadt."

What's New: FamilySearch Places *(continued)*

You would see dozens of possible matches from many different countries. These broad search results can ensure that you have considered all possibilities in your research. Perhaps while researching your family, you come across a town name but do not have the full context of where that town was. Seeing a full list of places with this name would help you find all possible matches. (The corresponding map is interactive, allowing you to zoom in or out and move around.)

After you have searched for a place-name and narrowed the results to one that you are interested in, click it to view further details about the place. The details are organized into sections, starting with Basic Information and History. Some places will have a short and rather simple history. Other places, such as those that changed jurisdictions, will have a more complicated history. The History section will show which jurisdictions the place was under during different time periods and will direct you where to look for records in each period. Knowing where to find records is a key benefit of using the History section.

Using Research Links

Below the History section of a selected place, you will find the Research Links section. Several of these connect to outside websites with place-focused information. For example TheClio.com provides information about historical sites and museums near the place-name you searched, and WhatWasThere.com pins historical photos of the selected place to Google Maps. The amount of information available on these outside resources will vary greatly. For some places, you'll find little, while for others, you'll find a rich collection of photos, histories, and facts.

Another research link you should use is the "Search for Records for This Place on FamilySearch." Clicking that link will search the historical records of FamilySearch. Under the Records tab, you can see people in Family Tree who are associated with the place. Under the Collections tab, you can see

What's New: FamilySearch Places *(continued)*

records associated with the place. Keep in mind, though, that you are not searching the entire catalog, only the historical records. This means that the results will not include a list of possible records for that place. For example, if you searched for “Neukloster” and then clicked to search the historical records on FamilySearch, you would see the Mecklenburg-Schwerin censuses listed. However, you would not see the all-important (but unindexed) church records that were kept in Neukloster. You would need to search the catalog to find those.

The other research links can provide a list of nearby places or other places found within that jurisdiction.

Finding Alternate Names

Below the Research Links section, you will find the Alternate Names section. This lists other names the place was known by throughout history. Such information could be particularly important for places that have changed jurisdictions. For example, if you searched for the city of Gdansk, Poland, the results would show that Gdansk was also known as Danzig, with German listed as the language. This would give you a new lead to follow in the search for your ancestor's hometown, as well as an understanding of how the city records may have been kept and how they may now be categorized. You may find similar information about a place in the History section.

Exploring Additional Information

The final section of the basic search results is the Additional Information section. What you find here will vary. In this example for Wayne County, Utah, you can see a Wikipedia link and a FamilySearch Wiki link. The Wikipedia link explains a little about the geography of the place and provides links to some of the towns. The FamilySearch Wiki provides a wealth of information about records and

What's New: FamilySearch Places *(continued)*

resources. Reading through these would be a great way to jump-start your research for a location since it will familiarize you with the important records for the area and tell you how to access them.

If you'd like to explore further with place-name searches, experiment with the advanced search. Because the FamilySearch Places tool is still under construction, you should expect changes and adjustments as improvements are made. But why wait? Go ahead and explore the latest features now. With this place-centered resource, FamilySearch has made it more convenient than ever to lay the foundation you need to understand where your ancestors came from and know how to find them!

Declutter Your House: 3 Questions for the Family Archivist

The following is republished from Lisa Louise Cooke's: Genealogy Gems, <https://lusalouisecooke.com/2018/01/10/declutter-your-house/>. The article written by Lisa Cooke, originally appeared on January 10, 2018.

To declutter your house, you may have to ask yourself hard questions-especially if you're the family archivist. Is that old apron or state fair ribbon just clutter or is it history? If it's a nice piece of history but you can't keep it, where can you donate it? Professional archivist Melissa Barker takes on these important questions for genealogists.

BEFORE YOU DECLUTTER YOUR HOUSE, ASK YOURSELF THESE 3 QUESTIONS.

1. WILL THIS ITEM HELP TO TELL MY ANCESTOR'S STORY?

So many of our ancestor's stories have been lost to time or by people throwing things away. Many of the artifacts and memorabilia that we own help to tell our ancestor's story. A first place ribbon from the State Fair where Grandma won for her apple pie recipe tells a story. Because Grandma won a ribbon, her pie was the best of all the pies submitted and she was a great cook! A great idea would be to keep the ribbon and write up a story about how she won the ribbon so that your descendants will have this story. A bonus would be if you have the actual apple pie recipe to put with the ribbon and story. If the item helps to tell your ancestor's story, maybe it should be kept and preserved.

2. SHOULD I DONATE THE ITEM TO A LOCAL ARCHIVE?

Before tossing those genealogical records, photographs, or artifacts, consider contacting an archive where the family is from and see if they would be interested in the items. Many of

Declutter Your House: 3 Questions for the Family Archivist *(continued)*

our libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies, archives, and museums accept records donations to add to their collections. This way, if a researcher contacts or visits the archive and is researching the same surnames you are, they could benefit from the items you donate. Make sure to call ahead and find out if the archive takes donations and set a time to take your items to them.

3. ARE THE ITEMS VALUABLE?

Many times we don't know the value of what we have in our genealogical collections. The value could be monetary and what we own could be worth money. It's always a good idea to get objects and memorabilia appraised by an expert if you think they could have a monetary value. But maybe your items have historical value and if you toss these items, you would be throwing away history. Many genealogists have one-of-a-kind documents and artifacts that help to tell the story of an historical event. That event could have taken place at the local level, state level, or even the national level. Checking into the monetary value and historical value of an item before tossing it just might change your mind!

So, if you are considering cleaning out that closet and tossing items that you don't think mean anything to anyone and are just taking up space, ask yourself these questions and make sure you are making the right decision.

DECLUTTER YOUR HOUSE BY REPURPOSING OLD FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

You can often transform the family "gems" from your piles or boxes of clutter into meaningful items to use or display.

Administrative Stuff

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

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