



Arkansas Genealogical Society

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Genealogy 2022 New Year's Resolutions

by Jeanne Rollberg

1. Find something new in '22! Expand those you share research with so that the exploration can be divided and the documentation will be passed on to active genealogists. Remember to verify all information(or mark it as hypothetical).
2. Invite younger family members to help you with technology to whet their interest for family history. DNA might be another area of interest.
3. Use the new French resources at MyHeritage. Use Geneanet with [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Clean up, add to, and/or reverify thin sections of family trees with updated information.
4. Begin preparing for 2022's release of the 1950 census. The 1950 census includes fewer census questions.
5. Consider which new software programs or technology are worth your time and will yield greatest results; avoid a scattershot approach.
6. Remember to use unique state and local genealogy resources not always available in libraries and historical societies or online nationally. (The Arkansas State Archives has three research facilities. AGS web site features archived Arkansas Family Historians that may assist in solving family mysteries.)
7. Document yourself: pay it forward. Type a minimum 4-page summary of your life, including nuclear family, education, military service, and other important aspects. Make sure at least 3 other people have copies.
8. Plan "roots tourism" in Arkansas or elsewhere. It's a treat that yields new insights and an opportunity to learn more "on the ground." You may even meet your relatives there at a family reunion!
9. Help a genealogy novice get started. It's a rewarding connection for both people. (Watch "Finding Your Roots" together on PBS.)
10. Learn what's new in family history by attending or viewing conferences like the AGS Fall Seminar in October that brings in nationally known speakers. Actively support your favorite local history and genealogy groups like AGS (especially those that yield research newsletters or publications you can use).

Digitization of Arkansas State Press Will Assist African American Arkansas Research

As part of its digitization of historically significant Arkansas newspapers, the Arkansas State Archives will digitize the Arkansas State Press that was published from 1941 to 1959, chronicling race relations in the state at a critical time. It was published in Little Rock by L. Christopher and Daisy Bates, who were well-known civil rights activists. The digitization is expected to especially further genealogical and historic African American research. The digitization of the Arkansas State Press is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and in partnership with the Library of Congress (LC). This title, along with many others, will be digitized as part of ASA's third grant cycle (2021-2023). All newspapers digitized as part of this project can be found on the LC's Chronicling America website (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). Content is easily searchable by keyword, date, city, or newspaper title. Chronicling America is a free primary source repository for historic newspapers.

To learn more about the NDNP project visit <https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>.

In their first two cycles (2017-2019, 2019-2021) ASA digitized more than 200,000 pages of historic Arkansas newspapers, and another 100,000 will be digitized in the next project phase. To view the full list of available newspapers on Chronicling America, visit <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Arkansasðnicity=&language=>.

HAM: Conspicuous Consumption: If you've got it, flaunt it!

Genealogists know that much can be learned to enhance family research from thoughtful museum exhibits. Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock is featuring Arkansas' conspicuous consumption in the 19th century in its Arkansas Made Gallery.



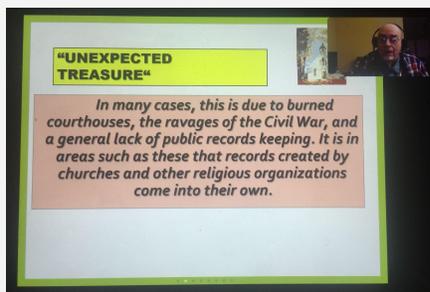
Though historic Arkansas is often portrayed as a hillbilly-filled economic backwater, by the middle of the 19th century, HAM exhibit verbiage says that "converging commercial forces created an environment primed for conspicuous consumption. In the formal parlor, a hybrid public/private space where 19th century families entertained guests, Arkansans donned their most fashionable clothing, displayed their fanciest furniture, laid out their finest silver, and generally presented themselves to their best advantage.

In the parlor and on the street, items like hand-painted miniature portraits, day dresses of patterned silk, and the flash of a gold pocket watch increased the social prestige of both middle and working-class adults."

If your Arkansas ancestors lived in the state during the period, a visit may open up understandings about them and suggest further research sources. HAM is located at 200 East Third Street, Little Rock and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30-4:30.

Church Records Treasure Focus of Baker Talk

Arkansas Family Historian editor and former longtime archivist Russell Baker spoke virtually for Heritage Seekers on church records recently.



The presentation was "Unexpected Treasure: Using Church and Religious Records in American Genealogical

Research." Baker mentioned that in addition to information about births, marriages, and deaths, church records often chronicled in migration and out migration as ancestors moved for new opportunities, and especially in the Civil War era. They often provided females' maiden names critical to genealogy research that can't be found elsewhere, and documented social lives, because the churches provided ongoing social activities.

Baker mentioned that because rural life and the frontier were closely associated with religion, the so-called Bible Belt tends to have more available church records than some other areas of the country. Church records also do have ethnic group clusters in many parts of the country, so knowing an ancestor's country of origin religion can be helpful in seeking further documentation.

During his professional career, Baker has contributed articles on genealogy, southern history, and religion to local, regional, and national publications. Baker was a longtime archivist at the Arkansas State Archives and has been editor of the AGS's quarterly valuable publication, the Arkansas Family Historian, since 2013. He is an AGS board member.

AFH Winter 2021

January is the perfect time to catch up on reviewing The Arkansas Family Historian to see if your ancestors are in it. It is a worthy benefit of AGS membership. It has been published quarterly since 1962 and features unique research on Arkansas ancestors.

In the current issue, there are articles about Ouachita County mountain pioneers in the Abee family, a Civil War letter, Dallas County indigent families of Confederate Soldiers, a bill of sale for two enslaved persons, family Bible records from Pike County, and more. Please take a look to find possible ancestor surprises when you receive your copy.

“Finding Your Roots” Returns in January

If you need inspiration in the new year to infuse new energy into your family history research, public television may be something to consider. Season 8 of "Finding Your Roots" with historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is set to premiere in January 2022 on PBS. Check the local TV schedule for details.

The acclaimed series will feature 21 guests in 10 new episodes. Some of the stars to be featured include:

Actors Amy Carlson (Blue Bloods), Terry Crews (Brooklyn Nine-Nine), Tony Danza, Raúl Esparza (Law & Order: SVU), Kathryn Hahn (Wandavision), Rebecca Hall, Broadway actor Nathan Lane, John Leguizamo, Leslie Odom Jr. (Hamilton), and Melissa Villaseñor (Saturday Night Live). Filmmakers Lee Daniels and Damon Lindelof, fashion legend André Leon Talley, CNN journalist Erin Burnett, talk show host Mario Lopez, restaurateur David Chang, and activist Anita Hill, among others, will also be showcased in the popular program.

Findmypast Expands Collections

Do you have ancestors from England and Wales in your Arkansas family tree whom you'll be researching in 2022?

Findmypast has recently opened 57,000 records from the formerly redacted 1939 Register, and the Register is considered “one of the most important twentieth century genealogical resources for England and Wales.”

Taken right before World War II, the census allows discovery of exactly where and with whom ancestors were living. You can also search by address to explore the house history and see who lived there in 1939. You can focus research on disabled persons, evacuees, refugees, Welsh language speakers and more.

Findmypast also has expanded its baptism collections, adding 9000 records for Northumberland parishes from 1753 to 1919. It has added 3000+ baptisms from the Durham area from 1889-1903. (These are critical family history records for listing parents, connected witnesses, etc.)

More than 99,000 newspaper pages have also been added. Please see: [findmypast.com](https://www.findmypast.com).

Missouri Resources Available for Research

Arkansas genealogy and history are closely connected to Missouri's, and a new resource development in the Show Me State may help us develop our own family trees.

As part of the Missouri Bicentennial Project in 2021, the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) worked with organizations across Missouri to increase digital resources for educators, researchers, and citizen-historians looking to learn more about Missouri's history.

The SHSMO Digital Collection has now been expanded and made easier to access than ever before, offering access to maps, manuscripts, correspondences, media, and archives from throughout the state's 200-year history.

Details are here:

<https://www.thepitchkc.com/missouri-bicentennial-projects-allow-one-to-peruse-missouris-history-like-never-before/>

Administrative Stuff

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NGS California Research Prep Classes Starting in January

Do you have California ancestors to research? To help prepare attendees for the National Genealogical Society Conference in Sacramento in May, the California Genealogical Society (CGS) will offer a series of six free classes on the top research destinations and collections in Sacramento. The speakers will be librarians and archivists at the facilities.

The titles and dates of the talks are:

- * Jan 11th Center for Sacramento History with Senior Archivist Kim Hayden
- * Jan 18th Government Publications at California's State Library with California State Documents Librarian Emily Blodgett
- * Jan 25th Historical Resources at California's State Library with Reference Librarian Elena Smith
- * Feb 1st Sutro Library –Genealogical Treasures with Genealogy & Local History Librarian Dvorah Lewis
- * Mar 15th The California Archives with Reference Services Manager Chris Garmire
- * Mar 22nd Special Collections at the Sacramento Public Library with Librarian David Munger and Archivist James Scott

All talks will be online and are from 4 PM to 5:30 PM Pacific time, so you'll need to adjust for Central time. (Please note that Sutro library, although part of the Sacramento based California State Library is physically located in San Francisco.)

To sign up for these free classes, go to CGS's NGS 2022 Family History Conference page and scroll down to 'California Research – Series of Classes'. Find details on each talk and links to sign up for each of the Zoom sessions.

<https://www.californiaancestors.org/ngs-2022-family-history-conference/>.