



# AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 18 No. 6 October 2023

Leisa Horness, editor

Coming Events ---

Oakland & Fraternal Historic  
Cemetery Park

160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nov. 5, 2023

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## Unmasking the Ghosts of Our Ancestors:

### A Spooky Genealogical Journey

Author: OpenAI's GPT-3.5 Language Model



Greetings, fellow genealogy enthusiasts! As the leaves rustle and the nights grow longer, it's the perfect time to embark on a genealogical adventure that takes us deep into the heart of our family's history. In this special Halloween edition of our genealogy newsletter, we're about to unmask the ghosts of our ancestors and explore the fascinating, sometimes eerie, stories that lie beneath the surface.

## 1. Unearth the Mysteries of the Past

Genealogy is often described as a journey back in time, and what better time to explore the mysterious and unknown than Halloween? Our family trees are filled with secrets, legends, and enigmatic characters, waiting to be discovered. Some of our ancestors' tales may be shrouded in darkness, and it's up to us to bring them to light.

## Unmasking the Ghosts of Our Ancestors (Cont.)

### 2. Haunting Family Legends

Every family has its own collection of spooky stories and legends. Maybe there's a great-great-uncle who was rumored to be a grave digger, a distant cousin who claimed to have seen a ghost, or a long-lost relative with a penchant for black magic. This Halloween, take some time to delve into these family tales and separate fact from fiction. Who knows what chilling truths you might uncover?

### 3. Cemeteries and Their Secrets

Graveyards are often associated with Halloween, and for good reason. They are the final resting places of our ancestors and hold many secrets about our family history. Consider visiting the gravesites of your forebears to pay your respects and document the vital information found on their headstones. It can be a powerful and poignant experience that connects you with your roots.

### 4. The Witch Hunts of Genealogy

Just as witch hunts were prevalent in the early colonial days, genealogists often find themselves hunting down elusive ancestors. Sometimes, it feels like our elusive relatives are playing a game of hide and seek. Use this Halloween season to revisit your brick walls and see if new records or resources have emerged that can help you finally unveil your ancestors' true identities.

### 5. Spooky Family Heirlooms

Unearthing the past doesn't just involve research – it can also involve examining family heirlooms. Those dusty old trunks in the attic might just contain mysterious artifacts, vintage photographs, or letters that provide insights into the lives of our ancestors. Take this Halloween as an opportunity to delve into these relics and discover the hidden stories they hold.

## Unmasking the Ghosts of Our Ancestors (Cont.)

### 6. Family History Tales Around the Campfire

Gather your family members around a virtual or real campfire this Halloween and share the eerie, intriguing, or downright bizarre stories you've uncovered during your genealogical journey. These tales of long-lost relatives, strange coincidences, and ancestral hauntings can make for a memorable and spine-tingling evening.

### Conclusion

Halloween is not just about costumes and candy; it's also an excellent time to dig deep into your family's history and uncover the ghostly stories that have been hiding in your genealogical closet. Embrace the mystery, the spookiness, and the history of your ancestors this season, and who knows what chilling discoveries you might make in the process?

Remember, our ancestors are more than just names and dates – they are real people with rich and sometimes haunting stories. Happy Halloween and happy genealogy hunting!



<https://argensoc.org/join-us/>

## November Kitchen Roundtable Talk

By Mary Jane Baxley

### **November Kitchen Roundtable talk: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Genealogy Pursuits**

Our zoom discussion will be presented Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 PM. It is free of charge. We are excited to feature our AGS President, Scott Lee, who will lead a discussion on Artificial Intelligence in genealogy applications. Impressive new changes are being imbedded in our software applications and research will be affected by the capabilities of search engine upgrades.

Each month, we delve into diverse genealogical topics and methodologies, fostering vibrant online discussions among our participants. This platform offers an exceptional opportunity to establish meaningful connections with fellow genealogy enthusiasts, cultivating new friendships within the community and forging connections with like-minded individuals who share our passion for research.

In the coming months, our discussions will encompass a range of intriguing topics, including Locating Records in Arkansas, The Art of Writing Your Family History One Chapter at a Time, Mastering Cemetery Research, Preserving Treasured Family Recipes, and Navigating Technology Challenges in Genealogical Research. We will also feature a special presentation for Adoptees.

We enthusiastically welcome suggestions from everyone for topics of interest and encourage volunteers to step forward as discussion leaders for subjects dear to their hearts. As this initiative continues to evolve, we anticipate making refinements based on our collective experiences. Your active participation and valuable feedback remain crucial in shaping the future of our endeavors.

The link to find a listing of our discussion topics is: <https://argensoc.org/kitchen>

To register for this webinar, please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsfu-orzoqE9NAsGvGNgCZlwXM-JziJPWM>

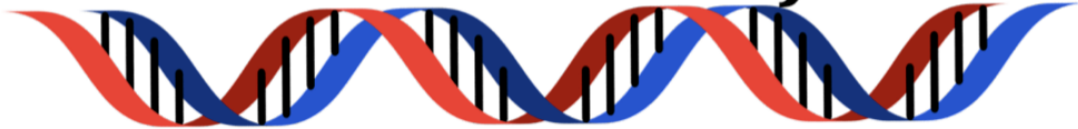
Thanks,  
Mary Jane

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The Arkansas Genealogical Society welcomes news, events, and comments, etc. from other genealogical groups within the state or information that is Arkansas related.

Please send your news to us at [agscontributions@gmail.com](mailto:agscontributions@gmail.com).

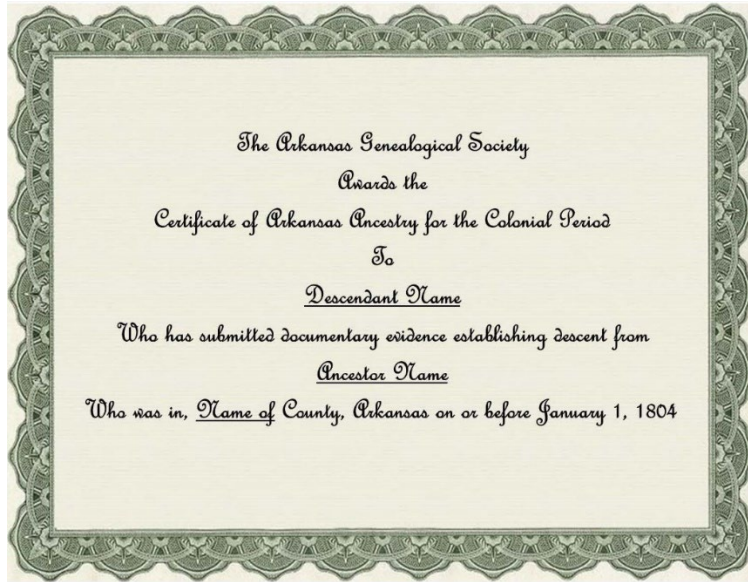
# Join the AGS Early Arkansas Roots DNA Project



Y-DNA and autosomal DNA testing is a powerful tool -we build pathways to the past to connect male lines, correct existing trees, AND find supporting evidence.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/agsearlyarkansasrootsproject/about>

## Arkansas Ancestry Certificates



The Arkansas Genealogical Society issues Certificates of Arkansas Ancestry to qualified researchers. Since January 1991, we have issued approximately 450 certificates. Everyone with early Arkansas roots is encouraged to apply.

Types of certificates include:

Colonial Certificates – For ancestors who resided in Arkansas prior to 1 January 1804.

Territorial Certificates – For ancestors who resided in Arkansas prior to 15 June 1836.

Antebellum Certificates – For ancestors who resided in Arkansas prior to 6 May 1861.

Civil War Certificates – For ancestors who served in a Confederate or Union Arkansas unit between 1861 and 1865, or applied for an Arkansas Confederate pension, or whose widow applied for such a pension, or a Union soldier or a soldier's widow who applied for a U.S. pension while living in Arkansas.

Nineteenth Century Certificates – For ancestors who resided in Arkansas prior to 31 December 1900.

These lineages are published in The Arkansas Family Historian. A copy of the applications along with the accompanying proof documents are archived and filmed at the Arkansas State Archives.

Please go to the AGS website at <https://argensoc.org/ancestry-certificate/> for instructions , fees, and downloadable application forms.

## RootsTech 2024

Registration is now open for RootsTech 2024 at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> . The conference will be held February 29 – March 2, 2024, both in-person at Salt Lake City Utah and online. There will be over 200 new online sessions, you can join keynote sessions live, chat online with other attendees and get digital syllabi and class handouts for free! It's an invaluable learning opportunity for genealogists.

If you need a little help keeping up with online conferences and events, you might check out the free Conference Keeper genealogy calendar of events. Providing free publicity for any and all genealogy events. You can find them at <https://conferencekeeper.org/> .

### Administrative Stuff

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