



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society
Vol. 20, No. 2, March 2025
Sara White, Editor

Note from the Editor:

Greetings fellow genealogists and family historians, and well met! In March, we celebrate Women's History—and we hope to have the luck o' the Irish on March 17! The Ulster Historical Foundation is hosting an Irish Genealogy Day on March 14 at the Bentonville Public Library. Established in 1965, the Ulster Historical Foundation has become one of the principal genealogical research agencies and publisher of quality material regarding Irish history and more. They regularly conduct tours in North America, sharing their research and expertise.

In This Issue:

- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Meet Your Publications Committee
- Irish Naming Traditions
- Using ChatGPT for Genealogy: Part 2
- Arkansas Genealogical Society Kitchen Roundtable Talk

March Events

Monday, March 3

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701, in the Genealogy Library

Monday, March 10

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701, in the Genealogy Library

Saturday, March 15

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: TNGS Spring Virtual Seminar: The Occupations of Our Ancestors

Hosted by the Tennessee Genealogical Society

[Online via GoToWebinar](#)

10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m.: Strategies to Identify DNA Matches with Kelli Bergheimer

Hosted by Genealogy Friend of Plano Libraries

[Online via Zoom](#)

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.: Murder in the Mountains: Solving a Paternity Case with DNA and Court Records with Kate Penney Howard

Hosted by the Moreno Valley Genealogical Society

[Online via Zoom](#)

Monday, March 17

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701, in the Genealogy Library

Monday, March 18

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Find Your Roots: Getting Started on Your Irish Genealogy

Hosted by AARP

[Online via Zoom](#)

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Genealogy: Researching Your Female Ancestors

Hosted by Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries

[Online via Zoom](#)

Thursday, March 20

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Genealogy Class: Creating a Family History Book

Hosted by the Lake County Public Library

[Online via Zoom](#)

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.: Identifying Female Ancestors

Hosted by the Largo Public Library

[Online via Zoom](#)

Saturday, March 22

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.: Evergreen Cemetery Tour with Marilyn Heifner

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

Center St. and University Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701

Monday, March 24

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701, in the Genealogy Library

Tuesday, March 25

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Medal of Honor Day

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701,

In the Willard & Pat Walker Community Room

Saturday, March 29

9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.: The 5th Annual Arizona Genealogy Day

Hosted by the Arizona State Library

[Online via Zoom](#)

Monday, March 31

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

Hosted by the Fayetteville Public Library

401 W. Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR 72701, in the Genealogy Library

Upcoming Events



Irish Genealogy Day with the Ulster Historical Foundation

March 14, 2025

*Bentonville Public Library
405 S. Main St., Bentonville, AR 72712*

Join the **Northwest Genealogical Society** and the **Ulster Historical Foundation** for an all-day workshop on researching your Irish ancestry!

Research Consultations from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Workshop from 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. (Doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

Registration Cost: \$30

www.nwagenealogicalsociety.org

Welcome to our “Meet the Publication Team” series! Each month, we’ll introduce you to a member of our talented team dedicated to bringing you the latest news, research, and resources from our genealogical society. This month, we’re introducing you to Mysti Gates, our associate editor.



Meet the Publication Team: Mysti Gates, Associate Editor

What inspired your interest in genealogy and historical research?

About 10–15 years ago, I learned my maternal grandfather was Swedish. Knowing his family immigrated to the United States from Sweden in the early 1800s sparked a desire to dig into this branch of my family tree. I haven’t been able to dedicate as much time to it as I’d like, but I’d be curious to know if I have Viking heritage. The surname suggests it’s possible.

What is your role on the team, and what excites you most about it?

As the Associate Editor of the *Arkansas Family Historian*, I help source content and copyedit the final document. I just joined the Ezine staff as well. I’m excited to revamp the *Family Historian* and assist in increasing interest in and readership for both publications.

Do you have a favorite genealogical discovery or a story from your own research?

My favorite discovery so far is that my daughters have three presidents and one vice president in one branch of their dad’s family tree and another president in mine. Who knows what I’ll find as I keep digging?! I’ve confirmed several Revolutionary War patriots on their dad’s side as well. I’m currently looking into my side with the assistance of the local DAR chapter.

What is one genealogical resource or tip you think every researcher should know about?

Ancestry.com and *Fold3* are sites many people are familiar with, but I only recently learned that the DAR has free resources available to the public. Members, of course, have more advanced tools at their disposal, but this revelation has certainly helped me dig further into my colonial-era roots. I would also direct researchers to the *Chronicling America* website, a free online newspaper directory made available by the Library of Congress.

Outside of genealogy, what hobbies or interests do you enjoy?

When I’m not researching family histories, I enjoy reading, writing, cooking, and canning. I enjoy experimenting with new ingredients and different cuisines. For fun, I teach cooking classes at the local community college—for adults in the fall and spring and for children in the summer.

Stay tuned next month to meet another member of our publication team! If you have any questions or suggestions for our publications, feel free to reach out. We love hearing from our readers and members.

Irish Naming Traditions and Patterns

The source of this article is a delightful digital newsletter called A Letter from Ireland, authored by Michael Collins.

If you are facing brick walls in your Irish family tree, these naming patterns used well into the 1960s in Ireland and by many immigrant families might give you a clue to possible ancestral names. These traditions may fall by the wayside with younger generations, but they were generally accurate in Ireland within the regions and religions.

- 1st son was named after the father's father
- 2nd son was named after the mother's father
- 3rd son was named after the father
- 4th son was named after the father's eldest brother
- 1st daughter was named after the mother's mother
- 2nd daughter was named after the father's mother
- 3rd daughter was named after the mother
- 4th daughter was named after the mother's eldest sister

If your family held true to this popular custom, searching records for names common to your particular family line may bring a wealth of information to your research!

To learn more about researching Irish family history, visit Michael's website, www.aletterfromireland.com, and subscribe to his free newsletter.

Collins, Michael. "Irish Naming Traditions." *Letters from Ireland*, accessed March 2, 2025, <https://www.aletterfromireland.com/irish-naming-patterns/>

Using ChatGPT For Genealogy Part 2:

How to Extract Data (Names, Dates, & Relationships) from Narratives

ChatGPT



By Josephine Hardy

In the first installment of this series, we covered the basics of ChatGPT and how to get started. We also learned how to write an ancestor's biography using the RTF prompt framework. Now, we will learn how to extract information like names, dates, and relationships from narratives using ChatGPT.

What Is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence (AI) created to have human-like conversations. You interact with ChatGPT by typing in questions, statements, or any other text, as you would converse with a friend in a text message or a Facebook chat. Think of it like having a conversation with a very knowledgeable person who has read every single page on the Internet and nearly every book ever written. By processing and learning from all of these sources, it has a very good understanding of human language and is knowledgeable on a wide range of topics. Interaction with ChatGPT uses this knowledge to understand what you're saying and generate appropriate responses.

Important things to remember before we get started:

- ChatGPT is not always accurate.
- It is not always grammatically correct.
- Always fact-check and proofread everything you read on ChatGPT.

How to Access ChatGPT

You will need to sign up for a free account to use ChatGPT. You can use it on your computer browser (chat.openai.com) or on your phone. Download it on the Apple app store or Google Play app store.

With a premium account, you can show images to ChatGPT to start a chat, ask it to create an image, or chat with your voice. To keep things simple, this series will focus on using ChatGPT with text, so there is no need to sign up for a paid account unless you want to.

How to Extract Data Using the RTF Prompt Framework

Our example will be an obituary, and the format will ask AI to create a table with the extracted information. This will save you a lot of time and help you look at the data you've already collected in a new way.

Let's get started with a simple prompt. Take note that I have not yet provided ChatGPT with the obituary.

My Prompt:

Please extract the names and relationships from the obituary I will provide below.

ChatGPT's Response:

Of course, please go ahead and provide the obituary, and I'll assist you with extracting the names and relationships.

My Response:

The Obituary

Mrs. Rose Davis Passes Away After Injury From Fall.

Published on Jan 2, 1910

Mrs. Rose Davis, who has been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. G. B. Hart, at 1102 Court Street, passed away yesterday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock. Mrs. Davis had been an invalid for the past five years, and three weeks ago, she fell, injuring her hip. This injury, combined with her advanced age, caused her death.

Decedent was a native of Longford County, Ireland, having been born June 11, 1839. She came to America with her four sisters after the death of her parents, located in New York City, where they resided for eight years. Her marriage to Charles David occurred in 1857. She came to Winnebago County the same year, where she has since resided, first settling at Irene. Her husband died twenty-two years ago.

Her three surviving sisters reside in New York. She leaves two daughters, Mrs. N. Conley of Belvidere and Mrs. Harr of Rockford, with whom she has resided since coming here from Irene. C.H. Davis of Fairdale is a son. She also leaves ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday morning at 9 o'clock at the home, 1102 North Court Street, the Rev. J. M. Taber officiating. The remains will be taken to Irene on the 10:10 Illinois Central train, and services will be held at the Flora church, and interment will be there.

ChatGPT's Response:

Here are the names and relationships extracted from the obituary:

1. Mrs. Rose Davis
2. Mrs. G. B. Hart - Daughter of Mrs. Rose Davis
3. Mrs. N. Conley - Daughter of Mrs. Rose Davis
4. Mrs. Harr - Daughter of Mrs. Rose Davis
5. Charles Davis - Husband of Mrs. Rose Davis (deceased)
6. C.H. Davis - Son of Mrs. Rose Davis
7. Rev. J. M. Taber - Officiating at the funeral service

This is a great start. But what if we want to see this in a more digestible format?

My Prompt:

Can you put this information into a table?

ChatGPT's Response:

Name	Relationship
Mrs. Rose Davis	Decedent
Mrs. G. B. Hart	Daughter
Mrs. N. Conley	Daughter
Mrs. Harr	Daughter
Charles Davis	Husband (deceased)
C.H. Davis	Son
Rev. J. M. Taber	Officiating Minister

Next, let's use the information provided in the obituary to create a chronological timeline of Mrs. Rose Davis' life.

My Prompt:

Using the information provided in the obituary, can you please create a chronological timeline of the decedent's life? Please present it in a table format.

ChatGPT's Response:

Certainly! Here's a chronological timeline of Mrs. Rose Davis's life based on the information provided in the obituary:

Year	Event
1839	Born in Longford county, Ireland (June 11)
1857	Married Charles Davis
	Immigrated to America with her four sisters after the death of her parents
	Settled in New York City with her sisters for eight years
1857	Moved to Winnebago county, Illinois
	Settled initially at Irene
1892	Husband, Charles Davis, passed away (twenty-two years before her own death)
	Moved in with her daughter, Mrs. G. B. Hart, at 1102 Court street
1910	Fell three weeks prior, resulting in a hip injury
	Passed away at the age of 70 (January 1)
	Survived by daughters: Mrs. N. Conley and Mrs. Harr, and son: C.H. Davis
	Three surviving sisters reside in New York
	Ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren

Given that some of the information in the obituary is not dated we will need to refine this table with other sources, but it's a great foundation upon which to build a timeline of the decedent's life.

Part 3: Drafting an Email to a Cousin

In the next segment, we will go over how to draft a respectful email to a cousin regarding information about your family tree using ChatGPT. Our examples will include requesting information and clarifying family stories. Be on the look out for Part 3 in the next AGS Ezine!

*Originally published in the
Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society newsletter
The Backtracker, Vol. 54, No. 2, Spring 2024*

Arkansas Genealogical Society

March 2025

Kitchen Roundtable Talk



Introducing 10 Million Names

Our Zoom discussion will be presented on **Tuesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m.** It is free of charge.

There are at least 44 million descendants of enslaved individuals alive today, but slavery separated families, erased names, and obscured facts. The 10 Million Names Project, recently launched by American Ancestors and its partners, aims to connect the family stories of these descendants to the 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the U.S. prior to emancipation and to restore their names to history. Join Danielle Rose and learn about the scope of this project, the objectives, and our methodology.

Danielle Rose oversees the many dedicated volunteers who assist with creating database content for the **10 Million Names Project**. She also collaborates with partner organizations and independent researchers who share content with the project. Danielle frequently participates in American Ancestors educational programs by lecturing on African American genealogy. Before joining American Ancestors, Danielle worked with the National Parks of Boston, where she researched the service and lives of Black patriots in the Revolutionary War. She also worked as a museum educator in Miami, Florida, before relocating to Boston. Danielle holds a B.A. in History from the University of Florida and an M.A. in Public History from Northeastern University.

[Join us online via Zoom.](#)

Our monthly **Kitchen Roundtable Talks** cover diverse genealogical topics and methodologies, sparking lively online discussions among our engaged participants. This platform is a unique opportunity to establish meaningful connections with fellow genealogy enthusiasts, cultivate new friendships within the community, and link up with kindred spirits who share our passion for research.

We enthusiastically welcome suggestions from all participants for topics of interest and encourage volunteers to step forward as discussion leaders for subjects close to their hearts. As this initiative evolves, we anticipate refining it based on our collective experiences. Your active participation and invaluable feedback remain pivotal in shaping the future of our endeavors. For more information on our discussion topics, go to argensoc.org/kitchen.

So, You Have Arkansas Roots?

*This year, we will resume printing our quarterly publication **Arkansas Family Historian**. This resource is available to our members and is invaluable in Arkansas genealogical and family research.*

Do you have Arkansas family history? Want to share your findings? Send an email to AFH@ArGenSoc.org.

AGS Ezine Administrative Staff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it to ezine@argensoc.org.

AGS: To learn more about the Arkansas Genealogical Society, visit our website at www.argensoc.org

Subscribe: If you have friends and relatives who would like to receive this ezine, direct them to the Ezine sign-up link on our website. Membership is not required to receive the AGS Ezine, but we heartily encourage you to join our wonderful organization! Membership details are on our website.

Comments: If you have suggestions of comments about our ezine, contact ezine@argensoc.org.

Unsubscribe: To remove yourself from the AGS Ezine list, click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the email you receive.

Credit: Items in this Ezine are copyrighted by the editors or the author of the piece. If you want to reprint any of the items in this Ezine, please give us credit, citing Arkansas Genealogical Society Ezine, February 2025, edited by Sara White.