



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society
Vol. 20, No. 6, August 2025
Sara White, Editor

Note from the Editor:

Welcome, family historians and genealogists to the August edition of the Ezine! In this issue, we honor the life of Mary Cooper, who passed recently at the age of 84. A former member of the board, she was a dear friend to the Arkansas Genealogical Society. I'm also pleased to present an article from our upcoming Fall Conference speaker, Thomas MacEntee! Thomas tells us some of his "must-haves" when it comes to researching and genealogy. To learn more about our annual conference, go to ArGenSoc.org/conference!

In This Issue:

- Arkansas Genealogical Society Kitchen Roundtable Talk
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Obscure Word of the Month: Coverture
- Genealogy Institute Scholarships
- 10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success
- Remembering Mary Elizabeth Cooper Miller
- We Can't Do It Without You: A Call for Volunteers
- Fall Conference: Call for Memorials and Sponsors
- Stay Up-to-Date with Us!

Arkansas Genealogical Society

August 2025

Kitchen Roundtable Talk



Libraries, Societies, & Archives: Support 'em, Use 'em, or Lose 'em

Our Zoom discussion will be presented on **Tuesday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m.** It is free of charge.

Please join us for our free Zoom presentation! Why do libraries and museums have sign-in sheets when you come in? Because they constantly need to prove they should exist! Over & over again. If people are not coming in “using” them, then what is their future? All genealogists **know** (or should know) that **not** everything is online. If these wonderful resources or repositories fail, then what happens to the records? They need your admission fees, membership renewals, and a response to their fundraisers! What can we do to help? Join Mary Evans, a driving force in the Arkansas genealogical community, to discuss the importance of these vital resources!

Mary Evans has participated in genealogy since she was a small girl in the family barn in Eastern Washington County and Carroll County, Arkansas. She spent hours in the barn in an old trunk full of land deeds, photographs, letters, and family artifacts. She is the current keeper of this same trunk with all the contents, near and dear to her heart. In 1980, she decided to start interviewing—writing down—all the old folks while they were still “available.” Her “Arkansas History Commission” card is dated 1982. She has attended many FGS, IGHR, NGS, GRIP, SLIG, TIGR, App Gen, Family History Academy, and other smaller state workshops. She started going to the Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club (Little Rock) in 2004. Currently, she is secretary, gopher, all-purpose, and email person. She also served on the AGS board briefly.

[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.

August Events

Wednesday, August 6

Crossing the Pond: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Ancestry

[Virtual via Zoom](#)

Saturday, August 9

Intermediate Genealogy: Organizing Your Family Research

10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Ann Henry Board Room

401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

Monday, August 11

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Genealogy Library

401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

Inheriting Grandma Violet's Genealogy

Heritage Seekers

6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

[Online](#)

Tuesday, August 12

DNA Discoveries

5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Fort Smith Public Library, Campbell Board Room

3201 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR

Wednesday, August 13

Ancestry DNA 101

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Ancestry

[Virtual via Zoom](#)

Monday, August 18

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Genealogy Library

401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

August Events

Tuesday, August 19

Genealogy Time

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

William F. Laman Public Library, Genealogy Room 125
2801 Orange Street, North Little Rock, AR

Wednesday, August 20

Break Down Genealogy Brick Walls: Drop-in Genealogy Assistance

3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Genealogy Library
401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

Thursday, August 21

Research Fundamentals: ProQuest Databases

5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

William F. Laman Public Library, Genealogy Room 125
2801 Orange Street, North Little Rock, AR

Saturday, August 23

Introduction to Online Genealogy Resources: Beginner Class for Online Family Research

10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Computer Training Lab
401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

Monday, August 25

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with D.A.R. Members

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Fayetteville Public Library, Genealogy Library
401 W Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR

What Exactly Is a Manuscript Collection? And How do You Create One?

6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Heritage Seekers

[Online](#)

Wednesday, August 27

Top Tips for Finding Non-U.S. Ancestors on Ancestry

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Ancestry

[Virtual via Zoom](#)

In our new series, we will define a new obscure word from genealogy. You may see these terms when researching your family history or may need to know them to enhance your genealogical efforts.

Obscure Word of the Month: Coverture

By Susan Lasley

Definition

Coverture is defined as the historical legal status of a married woman. Under coverture, upon marriage, a woman's legal status became similar to being her husband's property. This “property” status meant she could not enter into contracts, did not have rights to her children, and could not control land or other real property acquired by her husband or that she inherited from her own family. The emphasis is on married women: single (never married) women, divorced women, and widows (with some exceptions) did retain those legal rights.

Origin of the Word

From the French, *couvrir*, to cover; *couverture*, cover.

Time Period for American Records

From the American Colonial era until the 1950s. Various features were gradually abolished, but some elements persisted as late as the 1990s in some states.

How Coverture Worked

Once a woman was married, she lived under the legal cover of her husband; she ceased being a separate legal entity. The husband was the only one allowed within their marital union to purchase or sell land or other real property—including real property she inherited from her family. He was the only one permitted by law to start a business, open a bank account, sue or be sued, make a will, borrow money from a bank, or own any earnings she made working. Under coverture, a married woman had no rights to her children; in the event of a divorce, the husband held custody rights. Upon the death of her husband, any minor children between them were appointed a male conservator who was responsible for them; she could not be the legal guardian of her own children. And once her husband died, she was not his heir; her children were—and they were the ones who inherited his property from him.

Obscure Word of the Month: Coverture

Coverture in Arkansas

Arkansas became one of the first to chip away at coverture when, in 1835, the Arkansas Territory passed the Married Woman's Property Law. It was the first law in the nation that allowed married women the right to keep property in their own names. This law did not, however, pass over when Arkansas achieved statehood. In 1840, the legislature tried again, only to have the law vetoed by the governor. The legislature tried again, successfully, in 1846, but by 1854, an Arkansas Supreme Court judge gutted the law's provisions. This back-and-forth process continued until 1892, when a federal district judge held that Arkansas married women were fully qualified to enjoy civil rights.

Effects on Genealogical Research

As a legal status of women, it affects how, or even whether, you will find legal records documenting the lives and acts of women, especially women who were or had been married. The colonies and states gave her a lifetime estate—right to live on the property the rest of her life—in the event her husband died before her. This right, called a dower right, was to prevent her from becoming dependent on the state for support. When her husband sold land or other real property, in order for the sale to go forward, she had to sign away her dower right to it. For some women, this latter signature is often the only other official record besides a marriage record or (in some parts of the country) a birth or baptismal record that the woman ever existed. This is especially the case prior to 1850, when the U.S. Census first recorded women by name.

Married women may sometimes be found by searching the cracks and interfaces of their lives. Look for husbands and children—especially sons. If her husband died, leaving minor children, look for probate records that may list her name along with those of the children. Look for the married woman's parents and sort through her FAN Club (friends, associates, and neighbors). Search newspapers for notices related to her husband's affairs.

Sources

Arkansas married women's property law, *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-married-womans-property-law-4745/> : accessed 19 June 2025.

Hazen Alshaikhmubarak, R. Richard Geddes, Shoshana Grossbard, Single motherhood and the abolition of Coverture in the United States, *American Economic Association*, <https://www.aeaweb.org/paper/DaaYNTSN> : accessed 19 June 2025.

Collins Online Dictionary, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/coverture> : accessed 19 June 2025.

Genealogy Institute Scholarships

By Regan Richardson

Pursuing genealogy can quickly become an expensive passion, especially when seeking specialized education. Genealogy institutes offer invaluable opportunities to deepen your research skills and connect with experts, but the costs can add up. Fortunately, scholarships not only help ease the financial burden but also open doors to mentorship, networking, and professional growth. In this article, we highlight scholarships for four prestigious genealogical institutes—each offering a chance to enhance your skills and advance your journey as a family historian or genealogist without breaking the bank.

The scholarships discussed are annual. If the deadline has passed for this year, we encourage you to join the mailing list so you are aware of when the scholarship opens next year.

The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) is one of the sought after institutes to expand your genealogical education. They offer week-long, virtual institutes twice a year, Spring and Fall.

SLIG encourages applicants who have not attended a national genealogical institute to apply. The [SLIG First Time Attendees Scholarship](#) is for applicants who recognize it is time to elevate their genealogical education, and they want to do it at SLIG. You may be self-taught, may be new to researching, or have been researching for thirty years. Regardless of your experience, you can apply if you meet their criteria. The scholarship includes a pre-reserved seat in a course of your choice. This is almost a \$600 value.

[The Midwest African American Genealogy Institute \(MAAGI\)](#) is the only African American-focused institute offering 72 classes over 3 days. 2025 tracks include:

- Fundamental Methods and Strategies
- Methods and Strategies for Slavery Era Research
- DNA for Beginners: Foundations of Genetic Genealogy and African American Research
- Writing and Publishing

Genealogy Institute Scholarships

To apply, applicants must write an essay of 500 words or fewer following specific guidelines. The scholarship allows for attendance in one of the above-mentioned tracks. This is a \$325 value.

GRIP Genealogy Institute (GRIP) is considered *the* event for genealogists and family historians to develop their skills while meeting new friends in a collegial and collaborative community. GRIP typically offers a week-long, in-person institute, as well as a week-long virtual institute.

GRIP offers the [Donn Devine Memorial Scholarship](#) in honor of Devine's significant contributions to the legal and genealogical fields. The scholarship allows the honoree to attend a week-long course at GRIP. This is a \$585 value.

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) provides an educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources through a week of intensive study led by premier genealogical educators.

Each year, IGHR offers two scholarships, and both scholarships allow for enrollment in a course for the week of IGHR. This is a \$545 value.

[Birdie Monk Holsclaw Scholarship](#): Birdie was a regular attendee and lecturer at IGHR, and her passion for family history and genealogical education inspired many. The scholarship honors Birdie Monk's memory and continues her mission to help others grow and learn as genealogists.

[Frazine K. Taylor African American Research Scholarship](#): This scholarship is open to professional librarians, archivists who help their patrons with African American research, and anyone committed to expanding their knowledge of African American genealogical research.

As a recipient of the Frazine K. Taylor African American Research Scholarship, I can't begin to tell you the impact the scholarship and participation in IGHR had on me. From the camaraderie, to the connections, to the mentorship, it feels like a gift that keeps on giving. The institute itself gave me the methodology to better understand how to use resources like the Southern Claims Commission and the Dawes Rolls to locate my ancestors or find out more about the era they lived in.

10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

By Thomas MacEntee

Whether you're just "dabbling" in genealogy and researching your roots, or you've become a "hardcore lifer" obsessed with "the hunt," there are basic skills that family historians of all levels have in common. We'll review those skills that can help you find success researching online or in person.

Is There a Right Way to Do Genealogy?

I've never liked living in a "black and white" world where there are only two ways of doing something. Telling another genealogist that they aren't doing it "right" can quickly turn a misunderstanding into a battle royale. However, I do think there are some BASICS of genealogy and family history research that should be learned and employed so that we aren't just "playing around." Sites like Ancestry have "gamified" genealogy, so it is fun to build family trees, click on hints, add info, etc. But are you really building a legacy and leaving a solid body of work for your future generations?

The 10 Must-Haves

My list of "must-haves" for genealogy is one I think most genealogists can agree with.

A Sense of Purpose

Seriously consider why you want to search for your ancestors and know more about your family history. Take into account how many years you've been doing this, how much time you spend each week researching, and how much money you spend each year going to conferences, society meetings, ordering copies of records, subscribing to websites. It is so easy to just bounce from thing to thing and never really have anything to show for your investment of time and money. Having one big goal, such as "I'm going to write a book about the MacEntee family history," is admirable, but it might be too big and overwhelming. Start with small goals: "I'm going to write a two-page biographical sketch on Elmer MacEntee, my great-grandfather." Then, more small goals and pretty soon you'll find you can string them together into that one big goal!

10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

Communication Skills

Why can't we all just get along? You think it would be simple, especially since the genealogy community is generally known as a dedicated and intelligent group of researchers, all focused on a similar goal: finding our ancestors. Yet researchers are people, and as such, little things like the ego and even misinformation or lack of knowledge can be like sand in the gears of the genealogy machine.

It all comes down to **communication**. Whether dealing with family members, cousins with whom I've never met before, or archivists and librarians, I always try to remember the 5 Cs: **Clear, Concise, Complete, Congenial, and Compensation**.

Writing Skills

I was fortunate enough to become a good writer in high school and a better writer in college. In genealogy, don't feel pressured to write a long "proof" argument like those you see in society journals. Employ the KISS concept: Keep It Simple, Stupid. I contend that you can compose a written proof of an ancestor's birth date or birth location in 50 words or fewer and still follow guidelines set out by professional genealogy societies and associations.

In addition, learn to master whatever writing application you are using, whether it is Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc. Once you acquire those skills, you'll have an easier time documenting your research efforts as well as getting those family stories in a fixed and written format.

Genealogy Research Toolbox

Have you ever sat down either in front of your home computer or at a library, prepared to start some genealogy research, and then **bam**, you can't find that wonderful website or resource you used last week or last month? Wouldn't it be great if you could build your own little toolbox of research resources that you could use anywhere? Building a research toolbox with your own favorite links, books, articles, and more is what you need. A personalized research toolbox not only can help you locate information about your own ancestors, but it is a great way to share resources with your fellow genealogists.

- **Containers:** Think of a physical toolbox, perhaps made of metal or plastic. Which design would work best for you? Large or small? With a handle? Lots of small drawers inside for items? For a "research" toolbox, especially one with lots of links to websites, consider a container where you can organize your browser bookmarks. A big consideration is portability.

10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

- **Content:** Think of what you would want to have at your fingertips during genealogical research. Are you constantly going out to Google to search for something like a list of old occupation names or abbreviations for given names? If you already had these website links in your research toolbox, imagine the amount of time you could save? And that time could be used to search for ancestors instead of tools!

Organization Skills

If you're a beginning genealogist, you want to research "the right way," and if you're an intermediate one, you probably have learned from your early mistakes. While some would argue as to what is "correct," we would probably all agree on these points as to what a research log could and should do:

- **Create an action plan.** Many genealogists have some sort of research plan, whether it is written down or in their heads. A research log can help you fine-tune that research plan and convert it into an action plan. For many of us, that is the challenge... getting from "What I want to look for" to "Oh, look what I've found!"
- **Keep you organized.** Do you spend hours just bouncing around on Ancestry.com or another website? What about in-person at a repository... do you use your time wisely, or just go from resource to resource? A research log can help you not only organize your research finds, but also identify areas where you need to do more research.
- **Allow instant recall.** Even if you are successful at finding the records and information you need in genealogy, what good is it if you can't locate that information easily and quickly? Especially if you store your finds on a computer, it helps to have a "map" to where all that stuff is! Use links and entries in a research log to find items fast.
- **Reduce "do-overs."** There's nothing worse than spending time researching only to find out that you already had that particular record. A research log lets you know where you've been and where you should be spending your time.
- **Help analyze data.** If you've located several different records related to an ancestor's marriage, how can you really analyze all the information and come to a conclusion if you can't see the details all at once? A research log lets you sort by fields or column headings and also search for specific keywords so you can easily analyze results.

Evidence Evaluation Skills

Have you ever looked closely at a vital record, such as a birth or death certificate? I mean **really** close... every line, front and back, every stray mark? That is what we should do as genealogists, but many of us get caught up in the excitement of the find, that our eyes only gravitate towards what we feel matters at that time. The following fields can be used when working with *The Board for Certification of Genealogists' Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources*.

10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

- **Source Type:** A source is *Original* if it is the first written statement, photograph, or recording of an event. Subsequent copies are *Derivative* and may be reproduced by hand, machine, camera, or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, in microform, as photographs or digital images, or in any other medium that records the image, whether transcribed by hand or technology.
- **Clarity:** Use *Clear* if the information can easily be read. Use *Marginal* if information is not clear, is partially obscured, and the researcher must “guess” at words or letters.
- **Information Type:** Use *Primary* if a piece of information is recorded by a knowledgeable eyewitness or participant in that event, or by an official whose duties require him or her to make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use *Secondary* if information is supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors caused by memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional stress.
- **Evidence Type:** *Direct* evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. *Indirect* evidence is inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

Source Citation Skills

When I first learned about source citations, I didn’t believe they were necessary. I thought they were a waste of time. Over time, I realized the importance:

- **Establish Proof.** Cited material gives credibility to a fact or relationship while proving a connection.
- **Determine Reliability of Evidence.** Some sources are more reliable and make a stronger proof. Compare points of evidence based on their source.
- **Track Records and Resources.** Easily go back and locate records and their repository. This is effective when the original record or a copy is lost.
- **Expand Research.** When encountering a difficult area of research, look for sources that were successful in making a proof and check them again.
- **Discover Conflicts.** Locate contradictions in existing research or when new evidence is found.
- **Understand the Research Process.** When using another researcher’s work, sources can give a glimpse at how that research was developed.
- **Placeholders.** Pick up a research project where you left off by looking at source citations.

Tech Skills

Even for a “techie” like me, it isn’t easy to keep up with the latest genealogy technology. A great way to stay up to date is to visit the RootsTech website and sign up for their e-newsletter. And also attend the **free** virtual portion of RootsTech each year!

10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

One bit of advice on updating technology: never go for the latest and greatest. Never be a “.0” person. What do I mean by that? Well, when a new version of a genealogy software comes out—like Version 8.0—don’t run to update your copy even if it is free. I’ve found that most .0 versions of software and apps have bugs and glitches. Wait for the Version 8.1, which is usually available a few weeks after the .0 version. You’ll have a better upgrade experience, and why should you be a bug fixer for that company?

A Sense of Fun

It can be difficult to quantify fun when it comes to genealogy. I’m sure anything we genealogists find enjoyable, like indexing records on FamilySearch or transcribing an old letter from an ancestor, will appear just plain weird and nerdy to friends and family.

For me, each time I am doing my genealogy, I ask myself, “Thomas, is this fun?” And if it isn’t, I move on to perhaps a different ancestor or a different task. I don’t mean to say that you should avoid the menial tasks, but look for balance between what **must** be done and what **can** be done... and go for the fun stuff!

A Sense of Legacy

I strongly believe that the 45 years I’ve spent doing genealogy should have something to show for that time and effort. If my family is not interested, and I don’t have a family member who wants to inherit my work. At the very least, when my “expiration date” arrives, I will have already donated my research to one or more genealogy libraries and societies, or have left instructions with my family on how to dispose of my research and everything that goes with it.

What if I did It Wrong?

Finally, how can you do it wrong if there is no right way in genealogy? And even if, after reviewing the 10 must-haves above, you notice something you’ve done wrong, it is easy to fix. Like evidence evaluation... just review the section above, look at the Resource List below, set a reasonable goal for yourself, like “spend an hour learning the best way to evaluate a historical document,” and just do it! That small time and effort investment will really pay off as you continue your genealogy journey.

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10 Must-Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

Resources

Genealogy Bargains

- [Genealogy Cheat Sheets](#)

Sense of Purpose

- [10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy](#)

Evidence Evaluation

- [Evidence Explained Website](#)
- [The Genealogical Proof Standard](#)

Source Citations

- [Evidence Explained Website](#)

Writing Skills

- [BCG Resources on Key Skills](#)

Genealogy Research Toolbox

- [Cyndi's List](#)
- [FamilySearch Digital Library](#)
- [Genealogy Research Toolbox](#)
- [Google Bookmarks](#)
- [Google Books](#)
- [Wolfram-Alpha](#)

Organization Skills

- [Genealogy Research Log \(Microsoft Excel\)](#)
- [Trello](#)

Tech Skills

- [RootsTech](#)

Sense of Fun

- [10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy](#)

Remembering Mary Elizabeth Cooper Miller



By Sara White

The Arkansas Genealogical Society was saddened to hear of the passing of one of our favorite family historians, Mary Elizabeth Cooper Miller. Mary served on the AGS Board of Directors, and she was an advocate of genealogy, writing, education, and, especially, Arkansas history. She was also a friend.

Mary passed on July 26, 2025, at the age of 84. She was born at Twin Creek in Izard County, Arkansas, where she attended a one-room school and began her lifelong love of Egyptian history. She was an editor for her high school newspaper and graduated Valedictorian from Melbourne High School.

In her life, Mary was a dedicated teacher, writer, editor, and genealogist. She traveled for fun extensively with her husband of 48 years, Jerry, and they also went on mission trips for their church, First Baptist Church, Batesville. Together, they visited all fifty states in the U.S., Canada, South America, and Europe. Arkansas remained her favorite place (along with Hawaii, where she once saw a baby whale swimming with its mother).

Mary loved genealogy and family history. She spent most of her life tracing her lineage and studying local history. One discovery she made about her family included her sixth great-grandfather, John Lafferty, after whom the Lafferty Settlement and Lafferty Creek were named. She wrote about this history in her book, *Coopers on Izard County, Arkansas*.

Her love of genealogy, history, and education defined her life, as she volunteered for the Independence County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Arkansas Society of the Colonial Dames XVII Century, the Arkansas Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists, the Arkansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United States Daughters War of 1812, and the Arkansas Society of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mary also served on the Board of Directors for AGS.

We wish to express our condolences to Mary's family and hope to continue her legacy through our work as genealogists and historians. Mary was laid to rest on Thursday, July 31, 2025. You can submit a memorial to The Izard County Historical Society at P.O. Box 877, Melbourne, AR 72556, or The Vest Cemetery Association of Boswell at 219 West Street, Melbourne, AR 72556.

[Read the full obituary here.](#)

We Can't Do It Without You: A Call for Volunteers

Dear Members and Friends of the Arkansas Genealogical Society,

At the heart of every thriving genealogical community are dedicated volunteers—individuals who care deeply about preserving the stories of the past so future generations can discover them. Our society is powered by people just like you, and right now, we're growing—and we need your help.

Whether you're a seasoned family historian, a tech-savvy hobbyist, or someone who simply enjoys being part of a collaborative, mission-driven community, there's a place for you on our volunteer team. Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

Content Creators & Writers

Do you have a knack for storytelling? We're looking for volunteers to write short features and articles for our **quarterly journal** and **monthly newsletter**. Share research discoveries, profile interesting ancestors, or help highlight underrepresented histories in our state.

Transcribers & Document Photographers

Our archives are filled with historical records that need to be transcribed and digitized for future access. If you enjoy deciphering old handwriting (reading cursive and/or interpreting letters based on other words in the document) or have a steady hand with a camera or a scanner, this role is perfect for you.

Website Support

We're building a stronger, more dynamic online presence. If you have experience with WordPress or website upkeep, we would love your help keeping our website updated and user-friendly.

Project Management & Coordination

Some of our most exciting initiatives need behind-the-scenes support. If you're organized, love planning, or have a background in project coordination, we welcome your skills to help us manage timelines and team efforts.

Membership Recruitment & Outreach

Help us grow our community! If you enjoy connecting with others and spreading the word about our work, you can play a key role in helping us welcome new members and build partnerships across the state.

Whether you have an hour a week or a few hours a month, your time and talents can make a lasting impact. Volunteering with us is not only rewarding—it's also a great way to connect with fellow researchers, deepen your own genealogical skills, and contribute to preserving the rich and diverse history of our state.

Ready to join us? Please complete the [Arkansas Genealogical Society Volunteer Signup](#), and let us know what areas you're most interested in. Training and guidance are always provided. Let's build something meaningful together.

Save the Date!

Arkansas Genealogical Society Annual Fall Conference

Saturday, October 18, 2025

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Virtual

Featuring: “Fall into Family History,” a lecture by renowned genealogist, author, and educator, Thomas MacEntee



Thomas MacEntee, known as “That Genealogy Guy,” is a respected figure in the genealogy community, recognized for his expertise as an author, educator, student, advocate, marketer, storyteller, and entrepreneur. He is dedicated to empowering individuals in their pursuit of family history. Mr. MacEntee will guide you in achieving your family history goals through engaging and informative sessions.

Conference Schedule:

8:30 a.m.: Webinar Opens—Welcome Screen and Technical Check

9:00 a.m.: Webinar Commencement

9:15 a.m.: Session 1: “You Use What for Genealogy?”

10:15 a.m.: Break

10:30 a.m.: Session 2: “Internet Archive: A Gold Mine for Genealogists”

11:30 a.m.: Lunch Break

12:30 p.m.: Session 3: “Translating, Transcribing, and Summarizing Documents Using AI”

1:30 p.m.: Break

1:45 p.m.: Session 4: “Creating an Ancestor Sketch”

2:45 p.m.: Break—Instructions for Annual Meeting

3:00 p.m.: Annual Meeting (Members Only)

Conference Memorials

Honor the memory of a loved one by contributing to the Arkansas Genealogical Society's mission of preserving and sharing family history. **With a minimum donation of \$25**, you can create a memorial tribute that will be displayed on our website, during the opening, closing, and breaks of our [Fall Conference](#), and included in the conference handout.

Additionally, your tribute will be featured in [The Arkansas Family Historian](#) quarterly following the conference. Your generous support helps fund our programs and resources, ensuring that the stories of past generations continue to be told. If you wish to contribute more, additional donations are gratefully accepted. Thank you for helping us serve the genealogical community.

Submit your memorial here: argensoc.org/memorial

Conference Sponsorship

Support the [AGS Fall Conference](#) by becoming a sponsor! As a sponsor, your company will be recognized on:

- The AGS website
- During the conference (opening, closing, and breaks)
- Conference handouts
- [The Arkansas Family Historian](#) quarterly following the conference

We offer three levels of sponsorship:

- Bronze (\$25)—list the sponsor's name
- Silver (\$50)—list the sponsor's name, plus a short paragraph
- Gold (\$100)—list the sponsor's name, a short paragraph, and logo

Once payment is received, we will reach out to you for the details of your listing. If you prefer, your sponsorship can remain anonymous.

Submit Your Sponsorship Request Here: argensoc.org/sponsorship

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[ArGenSoc.org](https://www.ArGenSoc.org)

So, You Have Arkansas Roots?

*Did you receive the Summer edition of our quarterly publication, **The Arkansas Family Historian**? This resource is **only** available to our members and is invaluable in Arkansas genealogical and family research.*

If you're interested in this and many more benefits, consider becoming a member today! Sign up at argensoc.org/join-us!

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.

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