



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society
Vol. 21, No. 5, August 2026
Chloe' Russell, Editor

Note from the Editor:

Greetings, fellow genealogists and family historians! As we turn the page to another month, this issue is filled with opportunities to strengthen both our research skills and our connections with the genealogical community.

This month's articles explore the many facets of genealogy—from planning a successful research trip and understanding why reliable sources are the foundation of good genealogy to celebrating the stories behind our ancestors' marriages. You'll also find information on Arkansas Ancestry Certificates, educational opportunities, and the schedule for our Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference. Happy Reading!

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Arkansas Genealogical Society

August 2026

Kitchen Roundtable Talk



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

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

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/ better 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!

[Join us online via Zoom.](#)

Mary 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 & family artifacts. She is the current keeper of this same trunk with all the contents- near & 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 & other smaller state workshops. She started going to the Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club (Little Rock) about 2004. Currently, she is secretary, gopher, all-purpose, and email person. She also served on the AGS board briefly.

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

Immigration-Comparing the Past to the Future - Tennessee Genealogical Society

When

[Saturday, August 01, 2026](#)

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with DAR Members

[Monday, August 03: 5:00pm - 7:00pm](#)

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

This Old House - Using City Directories for Family Research

Tuesday, August 04: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

Women of Valor: Heroines of the American Revolution

[Tue Aug 4th 7:00pm - 8:00pm \(CDT\)](#)

Forgotten Records: U.S. Treasury Records, with Craig R. Scott, MA, CG®, FUGA

[Wed Aug 5th 1:00pm - 2:00pm \(CDT\)](#)

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association Annual Seminar, featuring John Sellers

[Sat Aug 8th \(CDT\)](#)

LSUS Campus University Center, Shreveport, Louisiana

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with DAR Members

Monday, August 10: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

Genealogy Class at Fort Smith Public Library

[Tuesday, August 11th](#) at 5:30-7:30pm

August Events

Genealogy Writing Workshop - Monthly Writing & Critique Group

Wednesday, August 12: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Ann Henry Board Room (3rd Floor)

The Importance of Telling Black American Stories with Genealogy & DNA

Event by Brian Sheffey

[Sat, Aug 15, 2026,](#)

African American History and Genealogy Society Workshop: America 250 Presentation

[Sat Aug 15th 1:00pm - 3:00pm \(CDT\)](#)

Missouri History Museum, 5700 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with DAR Members

Monday, August 17: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

Climatic Clues-Our Ancestors Weathering Their Lives - Tennessee Genealogical Society

[Wednesday, August 19, 2026](#)

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Plantation Church Records: African American Genealogy Workshop

[Sat Aug 22nd 10:00am - 12:00pm \(CDT\)](#)

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with DAR Members

Monday, August 24: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

A Quick and Dirty Guide for Reading Old Handwriting & Script with Kelley Barrett

[Mon Aug 24th 6:00pm - 7:00pm \(CDT\)](#)

Online via Zoom and In-Person at Bentonville Public Library (Haney Room), 405 South Main, Bentonville, AR 72712

August Events

Genealogy Research Using Fold3 Library Edition

Tue Aug 25th 4:00pm - 5:00pm (CDT)

Independence County Library, 267 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501

What Gravestones Can Tell You About Your Ancestors

[Tue Aug 25th 1:30pm - 2:30pm \(CDT\)](#)

Break Down Genealogy Brick Walls

Wednesday, August 26: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

10 Notable Migrations in the Black Diaspora

[Fri, Aug 28, 2026: 1:00 PM CDT](#)

Volunteer Genealogy Assistance with DAR Members

Monday, August 31: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Fayetteville Public Library - Genealogy Library (4th Floor)

Wedding Bell Blues

By Rick Frohlingr

rickfrohlingr@aol.com



Are you having trouble finding your ancestors' marriage records? Have you considered you may be looking in the wrong places, or on the wrong dates? There are many reasons that marriages did not take place where our ancestors lived, that the wedding date we know does not match the date of the actual wedding, or that marriage records simply don't exist.

Why Marriage Records May Not Exist

Throughout history, marriage has been a contract between families, a religious rite, and a civil ceremony sanctioned by the state. In some countries and at some times, it has been all three. Each may have fallen in or out of favor during the history of a specific country, and this can affect which records are available.

Common-law marriages do not require documentation, and have been the norm at times in many places. Marriage records have been lost due to fire, floods, or age, and there have been times they were not considered necessary, and so were never created.

Massachusetts first required marriage licenses in 1639, but it was not until 1929 that all states had laws requiring them.

Wedding Bell Blues

Why Dates May Not Match

The timeline for marriage records includes obtaining the marriage license, a possible waiting period, the actual marriage, and the recording of the marriage. There may be delays between these steps, and they may not be recorded in the order they occurred. You may need to check a considerable range of time before and after the event.

Family members may “adjust” the dates of marriages to keep family secrets hidden. If a child is born less than nine months before a wedding, the marriage may be backdated to the previous year. If you can’t find a marriage record, try looking one year before the reported date.

Chances are good that the marriage month and day may be accurate, even if the year isn’t.

A couple may marry when the child from a previous marriage, or just a previous union, is very young. In these cases, the new husband may adopt the child, and the family may conspire to keep the fact of the adoption from the child. This is another reason the marriage date may be changed.

Marriages may occur before divorces are final, or the couple may live as married before the couple makes the union official.

Why Ancestors Didn’t Marry Near Home

Today, destination weddings are fairly common. However, in the past, couples may have had very different reasons for moving the marriage away from their hometown.

Even if the wedding was private, the issuance of a marriage license is a matter of public record, and was routinely published in local papers. Keeping this record out of the sight of local family and neighbors may be one reason for moving a marriage.

Marriages may have moved to other jurisdictions due to a number of other reasons. Some states require blood tests and waiting periods between the issuance of the license and the actual marriage. Others prohibit the marriage of first cousins or vary in their determination of the age of consent. During periods of war or military drafts, a couple may cross state lines to avoid these delays before the young recruit left for basic training.

Wedding Bell Blues

Until the 1967 Supreme Court decision in *Loving vs. the State of Virginia*, so-called anti-miscegenation laws prohibited interracial marriage, and such marriages could be legal in one state, but not recognized at all in another. A similar situation occurred between 2004, when the first legal same-sex marriage occurred in Massachusetts, and 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled all states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and recognize such marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

There are also less controversial reasons for moving a marriage from a hometown. The couple may simply decide to elope, marry while away at college, or live in one place, and decide to hold the wedding in the hometown of the other spouse's family.

Gretna Green and Marriage Mills

The 1754 Marriage Act prohibited the marriage of couples under 21 without their parents' consent in England and Wales. Scotland had no such restrictions, and the village of Gretna Green, just north of English border, became a destination for couples who wanted to circumvent the English law. The first stop was a local blacksmith shop where marriages could be performed, and such marriages became known as "blacksmith marriages" or "anvil marriages."

In the U.S., some states or localities enacted "gin laws" that mandated three-day waiting periods before marriage, in order to prevent drunken acts of marriages by those who might be too impaired, and might regret their actions once they sobered up.

In bordering states or counties, "marriage mills" sprang up, and soon came to be known as "Gretna Greens" after the Scottish village where this phenomenon began.

The R. H. Lutes Wedding Chapel in Yuma, Arizona was a famous destination for movie stars to marry and avoid the spotlight. This article in Phoenix magazine gives an interesting insight into one of these modern-day Gretna Greens: <https://www.phoenixmag.com/2020/01/23/the-best-little-hitchin-post-in-arizona/>

Wedding Bell Blues

Strategies for Finding Marriage Records

Look for both church and civil records and find out when marriage records were required in the jurisdiction you believe the marriage occurred in. Look for records at least one year before the stated marriage date, and two years before the birth of the first child.

Studying the laws of the state or country at the time of the marriage may prove helpful. Find out what marriage restrictions were in effect at the time and place of the marriage. Look for clues in the information you have to determine a likely date range for the marriage record: date of birth for firstborn children, prior marriages, possible marriage of relatives, wartime.

FamilySearch has an excellent article about “Gretna Greens” in the United States that includes a table that lists locations your ancestor might be from and suggests the most likely corresponding “Gretna Green” at:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Gretna_Greens_in_the_United_States

Tread Lightly

Relatives may not share your excitement when you break through this particular brick wall. If a date has been adjusted, the family may have a lot invested in hiding the truth you are so eager to share. Try to ascertain how your news might be received before you loudly proclaim your find from the rooftops.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

By Thomas MacEntee, Genealogy Bargains

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Whether you've been researching your family history for over 20 years, or you are just getting started, there comes a time when you take a trip to assist you in your research. There are many options available to genealogists: some within the genealogy community and others in the greater travel industry.

What Type of Traveler Are You?

The best way to determine your "travel type" is to create a list:

- **Preparation and Packing**
 - Make a list of "must do" tasks and "must see" sites and set in order of priority.
 - Do you have to plan out every detail and every minute of your trip? Or do you like to make up your mind based on the day, the weather and how you feel?
- **Preferred Mode of Transportation**
 - Rank the different methods of travel available for your trip including airplane, train, and car. Also list your "must haves" for each mode of transportation: window or aisle seat on an airplane? Sleeper car on a train?
- **Accommodations**
 - What type of accommodations are required at a minimum to make your trip successful? List your necessities and must-haves.
 - Are you willing to share a room with another researcher on an organized trip to save money? If so, make sure you communicate your needs from this list!
- **Expenses**
 - Set a budget for your trip; include necessities like food and accommodations as well as room for shopping (genealogy books and the like).
 - Leave room for any last-minute change in plans (such as a different hotel at a higher rate) and emergencies (missing a flight or a train).

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

- **Emergencies and Last-Minute Changes**

- Think about your reaction to last minute changes such as that library you want to visit, and you discover it is closed due to fire or some mishap; or a flight cancellation where you have to fly to another city and be bused to your location.
- For each location, write down basic information number such as policy, hospital, etc. Also find the urgent care center and 24-hour pharmacy closest to your hotel.

These are the focus areas you need to incorporate into your travel plans. Also, compare lists with your prospective travel buddies; if there are conflicts, look for a compromise or travel solo!

Planning Your Trip: Formulas for Success

For many planning any trip, even a research trip, can be fun or for some it can be the most difficult part of the entire travel process. The best approach is to create a timeline, much like you would do for an ancestor: list each day, the day's activities, locations, etc.

Off The Beaten Path

- **Genealogy Cruises:** If you've never considered taking a cruise and adding genealogy to the mix, you don't know what you're missing! Several genealogy software vendors offer yearly cruises to destinations domestic and international.
- **Genealogy Society Research Trips:** Many societies offer organized trips to key locations relevant to genealogy research. These include American cities such as Salt Lake City, Utah, home of the Family History Library or Fort Wayne, Indiana, where the Allen County Public Library is located.
- **Genealogy Conferences:** Many genealogists will attend a national genealogy conference, such as those offered by the **National Genealogical Society** or the **Federation of Genealogical Societies** and then tack on a visit to a local archive.

Do Your Research

This means make sure that you know ahead of time what resources you want to use if you are visiting an archive or a library. Call ahead and talk to an archivist or a collection specialist. Some venues will even have materials waiting for you when you walk in.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

Look for Travel Deals

Here are some tips on how to stay on top of available deals when it comes to travel. Remember that the more you save, the more you can spend on the “extras.”

- **Timing:** If you are planning way in advance, learn the best time of year to make the trip to specific destinations. Either visit on off times when most tourists are absent or the “shoulder season” which is a month or two before/after the prime travel period.
- **Collect information:** Keep a binder or a digital folder where you can stuff items you locate during the year related to your trip.
- **Get notified:** Sign up for sale notifications at various websites. Include your preferred airlines, hotels and other travel vendors.
- **Points and perks:** Take advantage of loyalty programs which award points and perks even if you are not a frequent traveler. Make sure you are signed in with your account information before booking a reservation. When checking in at a hotel or picking up a car, make sure they have noted your loyalty account number.

A Genealogist's Packing List

Here is a basic packing list that works when preparing for a research trip:

- **Items to print**
- **Directions:** Include directions mapped online using **Google Maps** (<https://maps.google.com>) or other mapping sites. Include your basic destinations and your “if I have time” destinations.
- **Hours of operation:** Call each site you intend to visit including archives, court houses and libraries. DO NOT RELY ON WEBSITES. Many facilities have experienced furlough days or budget cutbacks, so you need to call ahead.
- **Policies and procedures:** Make sure you know if you can bring your own scanner or even a camera into an archive and the policies on usage.
- **Confirmation numbers:** For air travel, car rental, and accommodations.
- **Emergency information:** Phone numbers for police, ambulance, hospital, etc. Have the address and phone number for an urgent care facility nearby. Local office supply store or a pharmacy in case you need items.
- **Research information:** Print out any reports, family trees and charts from your genealogy research database that you will need to consult on your trip.
- **Blank forms:** Blank copies of research log, family group sheets, family trees.
- **Contacts:** Names/addresses of relatives or other researchers in the area.
- **Accounts and passwords:** Print a list of all your accounts and passwords you'll need. Keep this in a safe place!
- **ICE – In Case of Emergency:** A card or piece of paper with your emergency contact information in case something happens to you. Also list any allergies for medical personnel. Check out mobile apps that keep this information.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

- **Technology**
- **Flash drives:** One or more USB flash drives to store research information. Also, have one flash drive with just the Printed Materials listed above. **Tip:** also include a text file on each drive named “_Contact Info” and list your name, phone number and email in case you leave the drive at the library or lose it!
- **Cloud storage:** Make sure you’ve set up one or more cloud computing accounts such as Dropbox and that you’ve also downloaded the app to a smartphone or mobile device.
- **Computer:** A tablet computer or laptop. Pack chargers and peripherals.
- **Cameras and recorders:** Either digital devices or a smartphone that can accomplish the task. Use these devices not just to record your trip but also to scan documents and other items during research.
- **Smartphone or cell phone:** Take your personal phone and purchase insurance in case it is lost or stolen on your trip. Also consider a cheap disposable phone for \$20 or less purchased at a drug store or office supply store.
- **Global Positioning System (GPS):** Most smartphones already have GPS included but take a standalone device if desired. Remember not to leave it on display in your car when parked since it will attract thieves!
- **Mobile scanner:** Make sure you have a way to scan original documents, photos when visiting relatives and other items. Keep in mind that you may never visit this area again, so your scans should be high quality and kept in a safe place.
- **Miscellaneous**
- **Batteries:** Take rechargeable batteries (and the charger!) or purchase various sizes of batteries you will need.
- **Change:** Coins for photocopiers and parking meters.
- **Power strip:** Purchase a mini power strip so you can charge multiple devices. This is also a great way to make new friends!
- **Office supplies:** Highlighters, pens, folders, magnifiers, and the like.
- **First aid kit:** Include specific items depending on your type of trip; cemetery research could result in sunburn or bug bites.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

- **Food:** Pack your favorite snack foods and beverages.
- **Clothes:** Include clothing appropriate to the weather forecast and pack an umbrella. Also, one set of dressy or semi-dressy clothes for last minute invites!
- **Thank-you gifts:** Pack small thank you gifts for those people plus family members, interview subjects, and helpful staff. **Tip:** a small plastic bag filled with candy and your business card is a great idea!

Stuff Happens – Backup Plans and Emergencies

Once you've planned and packed, the next step is making the trip. Remember that there is only so much you can worry about and control once you are on your way. If you can recognize what you can and can't do in situations, your memories of any trip – even one where everything seemed to go “not as planned” – will be cherished forever.

- **Weather.** Stay on top of weather developments using websites and mobile apps on your smartphone. Also have contingency plans for those segments of your trip that involve outside work, such as visiting a cemetery. You may need to be flexible and swap your cemetery day with a library research day.
- **Air Travel.** If you haven't traveled by air in the past three to five years, you are in for a surprise since flying requires patience. Visit the **Transportation Security Administration** (TSA) website at <https://www.tsa.gov/> and understand the procedures for getting through security and what you can and can't bring onboard.
- **Train Travel.** While going by train can be fun and relaxing, realize that at least here in the United States, rail lines are often owned by freight companies which have the right of way. Don't count on being on time.
- **Car Travel.** Driving requires you to be always at your best; this means wide awake and with eyes on the road. Avoid distractions and make sure you take breaks if needed. Get plenty of rest the night before and don't drive sleepy or impaired. Also schedule the car for a tune up before any long trip!
- **Call Home.** If you travel solo, check in with a friend or a family member once you arrive at your destination and then daily. If you get stuck for any reason – weather, car repair, etc. – reach out to your network of friends and fellow researchers via social media. They might be able to steer you towards places to stay or eat or even put you up for the night in an emergency.
- **Health Emergencies.** Make sure you have all your medications; better yet, take photos on your smartphone of each prescription bottle and information in case you lose them. Use your research skills to find the closest urgent care facility or 24-hour pharmacy. Notify family members if you fall ill and ask for their help.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

Preserving Your Research and Memories

Every trip is a time of gathering, whether it is memories or in the case of genealogy trips, documents, and items to help advance your research. Once you've unpacked and kicked off your walking shoes, then it's time to organize your finds and make sure your hard work is preserved for the future.

- **Create a Travelogue:** Have you thought about your memories of the trip? Have you written down what you saw and experienced? **My Trip Journal** is a site that helps you keep track of your travel memories. Think about keeping a diary during the trip or writing down what you remember. Also consider using a recording app to record these stories.
- **Use Folders and Binders:** Organize your "finds" in folders, even digital folders, or binders once you get home. Prioritize the items you want to incorporate into your genealogy database.
- **Scan and Digitize:** If you didn't bring a mobile scanner with you, or encountered a location that only allowed photocopies, make sure you scan what you've brought back. Papers can get lost in the shuffle and those finds during a "once in a lifetime" trip can't be duplicated.
- **Note What Worked and What Didn't:** As you review your research discoveries you might see a pattern developing in terms of which archive, or repository yielded the best results or had the best resources. Also note which of your research strategies worked better than others. Then come up with a list to share with others through a blog post or at a meeting of your genealogy society.
- **More Writing Projects:** Besides your personal travelogue, how about sharing your tips and tricks and memories with others? Your genealogy society's newsletter, quarterly or even a meeting presentation are perfect ways to share. And don't forget to share your misadventures and those things you couldn't control!
- **Follow Up on Social Media:** If you didn't use social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter during your trip, make sure you give a shout out and "like" those places that made your trip a success. Libraries, archives, family run hotels, restaurants all appreciate your business; use social media to spread the good word or to give others "insider tips" from your trip.

Conclusion

Have you ever heard of a genealogist regretting a trip they made related to their family history? Me neither. But the quality of trips can vary depending on your planning skills and your ability to be flexible and adapt to last minute situations.

Plan a genealogy research trip today. Not only could it be the trip of a lifetime, but it could be a way to learn more about your ancestors.

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

Resource List

- **10 best travel journals for your 2021 journeys**
<https://www.travelwanderlust.co/articles/10-best-travel-journals-2021/>
- **A Trip To Bountiful Genealogy Research**
<https://www.archives.com/experts/macentee-thomas/a-trip-to-bountiful-genealogy-research.html>
- **American Ancestors Heritage Tours**
<https://www.americanancestors.org/heritage-tours>
- **Conference Keepers**
<https://www.conferencekeeper.org>
- **Find Penguins**
<https://findpenguins.com/>
- **GasBuddy**
<https://gasbuddy.com>
- **Get These Apps Before Your Next Road Trip**
<https://www.techlicious.com/tip/the-best-road-trip-apps/>
- **Google Maps**
<https://maps.google.com>
- **GrubHub**
<https://www.grubhub.com>
- **Hotel Tonight**
<https://www.hoteltonight.com>
- **How to Add ICE to Your Cell Phone**
<https://www.wikihow.com/Add-ICE-to-Your-Cell-Phone>
- **Making Heritage Happen: Planning a Fantastic Family History Research Trip**
<https://www.archives.com/experts/alzo-lisa/family-history-research-trip.html>
- **mPassport**
<https://www.mpassport.com/index.cfm>
- **OpenSignal**
<https://opensignal.com>
- **PackPoint**
<https://www.packpnt.com/>
- **Roadfood**
<https://www.roadfood.com>

Family History Trippin': Planning a Successful Genealogy Trip

Resource List

- **Roadtrippers**
<https://roadtrippers.com/>
- **Silent Beacon**
<https://www.silentbeacon.com>
- **Split Wise**
<https://www.splitwise.com>
- **TimeOut**
<https://www.timeout.com>
- **TravelMath**
<https://www.travelmath.com>
- **TripAdvisor**
<https://www.tripadvisor.com>
- **Tripit**
<https://www.tripit.com>
- **TSA**
<https://www.tsa.gov>
- **Unlock the Past Cruises**
<https://www.unlockthepastcruises.com>
- **Waze**
<https://www.waze.com>
- **Yelp**
<https://www.yelp.com>



Genealogical Seminar



Presented by

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

Sponsors: LSUS College of Arts and Sciences, *Events and Community Initiatives* and the Pioneer Heritage Center

Saturday August 8, 2026 - Speaker – John Sellers



John A. Sellers is a fifth generation native to Hopkins County, Texas and is a former Mayor of Sulphur Springs. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has a teaching certificate in history from Texas A & M, Commerce. He has been doing genealogical research since 1985. He has served over fifteen years on the executive board of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society including serving as president. He has lectured at national genealogical conferences as well as over 60 state and local seminars and at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University and University of Georgia.

Seminar Location: See map on reverse side

LSUS Campus University Center, Shreveport, Louisiana

8:00am Doors Open – Registration / Sign-in

9:00am - Opening Remarks

9:15am Researching Your Ancestor's Plot of Dirt: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research

10:45am With or Without a Will, *there is a way!*

Lunch (1145am – 1:00pm)

1:00pm Women That Gender You Can't Do Without in Your Research

2:25pm Louisiana, After Death: Successions, Family Meeting, etc

Early Registration Recommended * Door Prizes & more

Cost of Seminar: \$45 Includes lunch if registration received by August 3, 2026

Register online at www.altgenealogy.com PayPal accepted

For information send email to: altgenassn@gmail.com

----- (cut here) -----

To register by mail: Make your check payable to Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. Mail with this form to:

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Assn Seminar, P.O. Box 4463, Shreveport, LA 71134-0463

Please PRINT the names of registrants separately for each person attending.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

List 4 family surnames for each person. If received prior to **Aug 3, 2026**, your surnames will be included in the seminar handout.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

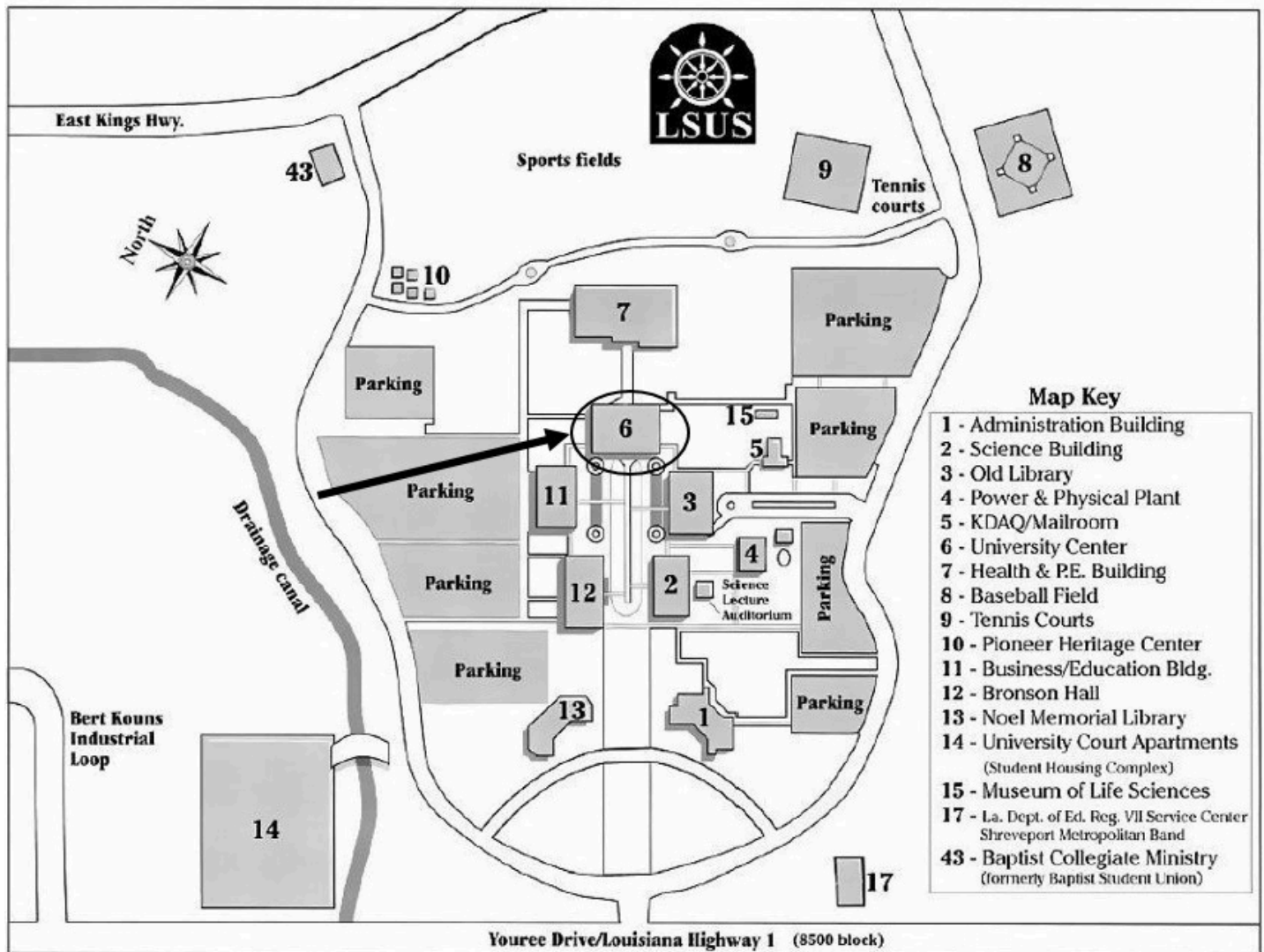
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Map of LSUS Campus

Seminar Location

University Center is # 6 on the map

(Note: this is not a building number, just a map key #)



Lectures

- **Researching Your Ancestor's Plot of Dirt: TheAdventures of Courthouse Land Research.** A detailed study of courthouse research concerning land records. Using deed indexes and how to access deed records to prove relationships. Discussion of a deed contents and their meaning. Affidavits of heirship and civil court records in regard to land will also be addressed. Mention of state land states and federal land states and their differences will be detailed.
- **With or Without a Will, *there is a way!*** This lecture takes a hard look at probate research. Discussion includes wills, probate minutes, guardianships, inventories, and other documents associated with probate. Terms and their meaning are also detailed. Discussions of both testate and intestate proceeding are covered.
- **Women That Gender You Can't Do Without in Your Research.** A methodology lecture addresses the ways to research your female lines. Different research strategies and methods will be discussed. Case studies are used
- **Louisiana, After Death: Successions, Family Meeting etc.** When researching in Louisiana, there are unique court proceeding concerning a person's estate. Based on Napoleonic Code, Louisiana terminology and method of handling both testate and intestate estates are explored and highlighted for the Louisiana researcher. Actual records are featured and analyzed.

Why Source Citations Matter

As family historians, we spend countless hours searching for records, analysing evidence, and building our family trees. But one of the most important parts of the research process is often overlooked—recording exactly where our information came from.

A good source citation allows you to return to the original record whenever you need to check a detail or review your conclusions. It also enables others to verify your research and assess the evidence for themselves. Whether you're sharing your work with relatives, publishing a family history, or submitting research to a genealogy society, clear citations add credibility to your work.

Without proper citations, even the most exciting discoveries can lose their value. A birth date copied from a website or a photograph saved without recording its source may be difficult—or even impossible—to verify years later. Accurate citations help preserve your research and ensure that future generations can build upon it with confidence.

Many genealogists know they should cite their sources but find the process difficult or time-consuming. With so many different record types, it's not always easy to remember the correct format or what information should be included.

That's where Cite-Builder can help.

Cite-Builder is a web-based citation generator designed specifically for genealogists. With more than 1000 templates covering a wide range of genealogical records, it guides users through the process of creating clear, consistent, and professional source citations. Simply choose a template, enter the details from your source, and your citation is generated automatically.

You can find Cite-Builder at <https://cite-builder.com>. You can use it for free, using the Basic version which provides access to about 40% of the templates. There is also a Premium version which gives access to all the templates, plus powerful additional features. An annual Premium subscription is only AUD \$35 (approx. USD \$24).

Whether you're documenting census records, parish registers, newspapers, probate files, books, or online resources, Cite-Builder makes citation writing faster and easier, allowing you to spend more time discovering your family's story—and ensuring those discoveries remain reliable for years to come.

Exclusive to our readers: If you would like to try Cite-Builder for a year, they are offering a 20% discount to our readers. Please use coupon code: ARKGEN20 at checkout!

Arkansas Ancestry Certificates

Honor Your Arkansas Ancestors

Did your ancestors help shape Arkansas history? The Arkansas Genealogical Society's Arkansas Ancestry Certificate Program offers a meaningful way to recognize and preserve your family's connection to the Natural State.

Researchers who successfully document an ancestor's residence in Arkansas—or service in an Arkansas Civil War unit—may apply for an official certificate commemorating their family's place in Arkansas history. Approved applications are permanently preserved through archival collections, and applicants' lineages are published in *The Arkansas Family Historian*.

Certificates are available in five categories: Colonial, Territorial, Antebellum, Nineteenth Century, and Civil War Ancestry. Whether your ancestors arrived before statehood or served during the Civil War, this program provides a lasting tribute to their legacy.

Download an application today and begin documenting your Arkansas roots.

Find more information here: <https://argensoc.org/ancestry-certificate/>

Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference, Saturday, October 17, 2026

“FindingtheForgotten: Reconstructing Lives, Families, and Communities.”

Chosen Topics

J. Mark Lowe, FUGA:

Locating “hard to find” Family with New Tools and Old Tested Methods

Famer, Rancher, or Sharecropper: Shaping a Profile for your Rural Ancestor

Dr. Deborah Abbott:

ClusterGenealogy: Finding Your Lost Ancestor

UsingManuscripts and Oral Collections in Your Genealogical Research

This is our schedule for the Conference:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference 2026

Featuring J. Mark Lowe, FUGA and Dr. Deborah Abbott

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 8:30 AM- 2:45 PM

Central Standard Time

Join the Arkansas Genealogical Society for our annual Fall Conference, featuring renowned genealogists and educators, J. Mark Lowe, FUGA, and Dr. Deborah Abbott. They will each guide you in achieving your family history goals through engaging and informative sessions.



Conference Schedule:

- **8:30 AM:** Webinar Opens - Welcome Screen and Technical Check
- **9:00 AM:** Webinar Commencement
- **9:15 AM:** Session 1: J. Mark Lowe, FUGA - Locating “hard to find” Family with New Tools and Old Tested Methods
- **10:15 AM:** Break
- **10:30 AM:** Session 2: J. Mark Lowe, FUGA - Famer, Rancher, or Sharecropper: Shaping a Profile for your Rural Ancestor
- **11:30 AM:** Lunch Break
- **12:30 PM:** Session 3: Dr. Deborah Abbott-Cluster Genealogy: Finding Your Lost Ancestor
- **1:30 PM:** Break
- **1:45 PM:** Session 4: Dr. Deborah Abbott - Using Manuscripts and Oral Collections in Your Genealogical Research
- **2:45 PM:** Break - Instructions for Annual Meeting
- **3:00 PM:** Annual Meeting (Members Only)

J. Mark Lowe, FUGA

Locating ‘hard to find’ family with New Tools and Old Tested Methods:

How exciting it is to find anything about those invisible, elusive characters who seem to hide intentionally. Practice your skills with some new tools like “FS Free Text Search,” Cross DB Searching, and old standards like Focused Reviews and Basic Searching. Hopefully, by implementing the tools, you can discover new records for your research.

Farmer, Rancher, or Sharecropper:

Shaping a profile for your Rural Ancestor Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.

Dr. Deborah Abbott

Cluster Genealogy:

Finding Your Lost Ancestor Using several case studies, this session will introduce the importance of researching ancestors by using extended family members, friends, and community. Learn how to develop techniques and strategies that will help increase the chances of locating that long-lost ancestor.

Using Manuscript and Oral Collections in Your Genealogical Research:

Manuscripts are original records and are often overlooked sources. They serve as primary sources that provide first-hand documentation and evidence of events that shape the development of a society, community, and/or family. Because they are usually not completely indexed in the manner that we are accustomed to, it takes time and patience to sift through the various pieces of paper that you might find. Manuscripts can be found in a variety of repositories, from archives, public/private libraries, historical societies, and universities, etc. Knowing exactly where and what will be found in manuscript collections can be tricky, but when found, these records can create a gold mine of information pertaining to your ancestor(s) life.



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ArGenSoc.org

So, You Have Arkansas Roots?

*At our annual AGS member meeting, we voted to increase membership dues to **\$35 per year in January 2026**.*

Members receive access to our quarterly publication, The Arkansas Family Historian, as well as many other benefits!

Sign up at argensoc.org/join-us!

AGS Ezine Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for The AGS 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 The AGS Ezine, direct them to the 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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