



Euna Beavers, Editor

JOIN AGS

If you are not currently a member, we invite you to join today.

If you are a member and have not renewed your AGS membership, it is time to do that.

AGS Membership Application

AGS Website

<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/>

AGS welcomes the following new members:

Robert D. Walker, Cisne, IL
Larry Jacob Holler, Little Rock, AR
Linda & Dan Joslin, Maumelle, AR
Melvyn L. Gillette, Oakland, CA
Cleveland County Library, Rison, AR
Annette Rawls, Rison, AR
Vicky Dison, Calion, AR
Mark Woodruff, Kemersville, NC
Jerry McGovern, Oakland, CA
Christopher & Lisa Dill, Little Rock, AR
Terri Buster, Lockesburg, AR
Connie Foster, Cabot, AR

**21st North Arkansas
Ancestor Fair
Genealogical Swap Meet**

Saturday, June 5, 2010
9:00 am–3:00 pm

“Hints for American Indian Research”

10:30, 12:30, 2:30

Bring and Share Your Family Tree

Find Family & Local History

FREE ADMITTANCE

and Table Space

NO PRE-REGISTRATION

Civic Center

Zack Road

Marshall, Arkansas

Saturday, June 5, the Civic Center doors will be opened at 7 am for Providers to set up. The doors will be open at 9 am for Information Gatherers and Swappers.



Mixer-Dinner Friday evening, June 4, at 6 pm in the Sunset Restaurant to get acquainted and start locating contacts for family research. Fred Daniel, our popular musician, will entertain. No advance registration required.

Additional information is available on
the Ancestor Fair website:

www.ancestorfair.us ;

Or from Shirley Gray at
shirleysdream@windstream.net or
1-870-448-3308.

Upcoming Events

North Arkansas Ancestor Fair

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Civic Center, Marshall,
Arkansas.

Sponsored by the
Searcy County
Historical Society

Butler Center Genealogy Seminar

“The Genealogist’s
Camera”
presented by
Desmond Walls Allen.

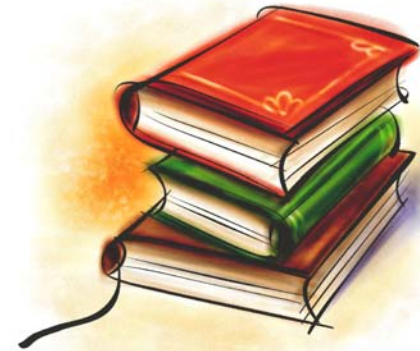
July 17, 2010
Butler Center, Little
Rock, AR

AGS Fall Seminar

November 5 & 6, 2010
Little Rock, Ar

Presented by Paula Stuart Warren

More to follow



Family Search's Record Search Pilot Site: Tips on Using a Valuable Research Tool (and an Appeal for Indexing Assistance)

William D. Lindsey
May 2010

Along with other genealogical groups across the country, AGS has been assisting the FamilySearch website to index records for its Record Search Pilot project. Among the records that AGS members have been helping to index are Arkansas marriage records. The index to Arkansas marriage records on a county-by-county basis at the FamilySearch site is almost complete now, and will be a valuable tool for researchers around the U.S. who are doing research in Arkansas.

For the remaining counties still to be indexed, FamilySearch will definitely appreciate the assistance of AGS members. If you are available to assist and would like to help Arkansas marriage records for the FamilySearch Record Search Pilot project, please contact **name and contact information**.

For those who have not yet used the Record Search Pilot site, I want to offer a few tips about this valuable collection and its versatility as a search tool. In what follows, I'm going to focus in particular on the Texas death records available at the FamilySearch site, as a way of introducing new users to this site and its research potential.

First, here's how to find the Record Search Pilot website:

1. Go to the FamilySearch site at <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>.
2. Once there, click on the tab "Search records," and a drop-down menu will appear.
3. Click on the option "Record Search pilot," and you'll be on the page for the Record Search Pilot project at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>.

As you'll see when you reach that page, FamilySearch is indexing, on an ongoing basis, important vital records and other genealogical records from around the world. As more of these records are indexed and/or scanned, they are being uploaded on a regular basis to the Record Search Pilot site. If you don't find the records you need now at the site, it's a good idea to check it regularly for updates, since they may appear there in the future.

To see the range of records at the Record Search Pilot site, click the tab labeled "Search or Browse our record collection." This opens a window that permits you to browse records in various parts of the world (and various parts of the U.S.) either by clicking on a map or by using a drop-down "Browse Collections" tab. A somewhat clumsy feature of the site as it is now configured is that you cannot scroll down the page by hitting the "page down" key or the down arrow on your keyboard. To move up or down the page, you have to go to the far right side of your browser and use the up and down bar you will find on the webpage itself.

In what follows, I want to focus on the Texas death records indexed (and scanned) at the Record Search Pilot site. I'm focusing on these 1) to demonstrate

to AGS members the versatility of this important website for genealogical research and 2) because, whether we have direct ancestors in Texas or not, many of us with Arkansas roots have family ties to Texas, and may not realize how much we can learn about our Arkansas family by using the Texas death records available here.

The Record Search Pilot site currently has two sets of Texas death records available. One of these, the *Texas Death Index 1964-1998*, indexes but does not transcribe Texas death records from 1964-1998. The search engine for this collection is versatile. It allows you, for instance,

1. To enter only the name (or an approximation) of the name for which you are searching.
2. To set the search for exact, near, or partial matches—a useful feature if the person for whom you're searching may have gone by another version of the name you have in your records, or if the death record itself spells the name differently than your spelling.
3. You can, of course, enter only a name (including a surname) and see what records you may come up with for that name. If you have a date or approximate date of death, and a place of death, you can also enter that information to help restrict the search.

Here's what happens, for instance, when I enter my grandmother's name (she spent the final months of her life in Texas because her two living children were both living in Texas at the time she died). Since I'd expect her to be listed under her married name—Lindsey—and not her maiden name—Snead—I can try entering “Vallie Lindsey” into the search engine.

When I do that, not entering her precise date and place of death, the first hit I receive is for “Vallie S. Lindsey.” When I click on that, another window opens with a summary of her death certificate (but not a copy of it). This tells me that she died 25 Dec. 1976 in Bexar Co., Texas. If I had not already had a date and place of death for my grandmother, this would be very valuable information, indeed, for me to find.

You can also use the search engine in another versatile way that has proven very helpful to me, as I work on family lines of mine that have gone from Arkansas (and Louisiana) to Texas over the years. In some cases, I did not even know that these lines had moved to Texas.

1. Note that after having searched for one record, you can now either click “Refine search” or “New search” on the top right of the page on which you're already searching.
2. The first option will keep you within the record collection in which you're already searching (in this case, Texas Death Index 1964-1998).
3. The second option will bring you back to the main page of the Record Search Pilot, where you'll once again have to choose the particular collection of records you want to search.
branches were living prior to their move to Texas.

Let's assume that, having found my grandmother's death record, I am now wondering if any of her siblings also died in Texas.

1. If I hit the "Refine search" option, it brings me back to the original search terms I have entered.
2. To search for possible siblings of my grandmother who died in Texas, I now click "Advanced Search" at the bottom left of the search box, and the box expands.
3. It now gives me the option to enter my grandmother's father's and mother's names. Since I'm not entirely sure that whoever would have provided information for death certificates of my grandmother's siblings who died in Texas would know the full name of my great-grandparents—Henry Clay Snead and Lucy Frances Harris—I may choose just to enter the father's surname, Snead, and the mother's surname, Harris.
4. I also erase my grandmother's name from the search form before I do this new advanced search, by the way, since I want the search to find any and all children of a Snead father and a Harris mother in the database.

That search will return to me any children of a Snead father and a Harris mother who have death certificates filed in Texas from 1964-1998. If I set the level of match at exact and close, the search will also return to me matches that use variant spellings such as Sneed and Harriss or even Harrison.

I don't find any siblings of my grandmother dying in Texas in the time frame in question, using this search method—which confirms what I already know about where her siblings died. They were all in their native state of Louisiana at their deaths. And most of them died before 1964, when this index begins.

The second set of Texas death records available at the Record Search Pilot page of the FamilySearch site covers a longer range of years. This collection is entitled *Texas Deaths, 1890-1976*. You can use it precisely the way I've just suggested you use the first collection.

But note one other feature this collection has: it has the **actual images of the death records** in question, which you can print and/or save to computer files. Since this collection goes up to 1976 and I've just found a listing for my grandmother's death in the other index, which doesn't have an image of her death certificate, I can now toggle to the other collection and find the actual image--and save a copy as well as print it.

If I enter the name Vallie Lindsey into the search engine for this collection, once again, a page opens showing me her date and place of death. This time, the abstract also specifies that she died in San Antonio. And it gives her date of birth, 9 May 1892, and place of birth, Louisiana, as well as the names of her parents, Henry Clay Snead and Lucy Harris. It also provides source information.

But even more valuable, it allows me to see the death certificate itself. I can retrieve it in the following way.

1. In the upper right hand corner of the page with the abstract of the death certificate information is a small icon of a death certificate.

2. If I put my cursor on the icon, it tells me “View original image.”
3. When I click the icon, the actual image comes up. This page has features that allow me to magnify and rotate the image for easier viewing.

In summary, those researching Arkansas families can find much valuable information about descendants of those families when branches of their families ended up in Texas, by using the two collections of Texas death records at FamilySearch’s Record Search Pilot in the versatile ways I’ve recommending above. By following the steps I’m suggesting here, I’ve found

1. Siblings of great-grandparents whose date and location of death I did not know.
2. The full name of those siblings, along with information about other siblings or children who provided information for the death certificate.
3. Dates of birth and places of burial I did not have.
4. Information about a second spouse of various family members, who was unknown to me before I searched these death records.
5. The surname of a female ancestor whose surname I did not know.
6. Birth and marriage information pointing me back several generations on some branches of my family, and indicating to me where these branches were living prior to their move to Texas.

If you want to cast a wide net and possibly discover descendants of collateral lines that went to Texas, you can also use these two search engines to enter the surname of a father alone in the advanced search box, and in that way you’ll receive a return of all people with that surname who died in Texas and left death certificates in the time frame in question. Using that feature (as well as by entering both a father’s and mother’s name), I’ve found quite a few descendants of branches of my family that I already knew had gone to Texas, but for which I did not have complete information.

When I began doing family research over 30 years ago, I never expected—with one grandmother born in Arkansas, two grandparents born in Louisiana, and a grandfather born in Alabama—to find that I had ancestors who died in Texas. I expected my research to lead east and not west.

One of the surprises of my research has been to discover that I actually have ten direct ancestors who died in Texas, ancestors who went to Texas with some of their children while other children who were my direct ancestors remained further east. Because it’s not at all unusual for Arkansans (or, in my case, someone with both Arkansas and Louisiana roots) to have relatives in Texas, I had always known that I have quite a few cousins in Texas, and that my family’s history has been part of the history of our neighbor to the west for many years.

What I never expected when I began my family research was to find my *own roots*, so to speak, in Texas—to find the graves of a half dozen of my own direct forebears in Texas. For anyone researching Arkansas families, I highly recommend FamilySearch’s Record Search Pilot project site. I recommend the site for anyone researching families in many areas of the globe, in fact.

It’s a valuable index to significant genealogical records around the world, and one being built on a daily basis. It’s also an important repository of digital images of many of the records the site indexes. Visit the Record Search Pilot site frequently, and you won’t be disappointed, once you learn to use its resources in various creative ways.

Submitted by Rebecca Wilson

Lynn Ewbank Retires From Arkansas History Commission

Our friend and colleague Lynn Ewbank has announced her retirement from the Arkansas History Commission after thirty-four years of service to the agency. Lynn began her career at the AHC when the offices were housed in the Old State House. As the AHC's photo archivist for many years, one of her biggest achievements was to serve as project director of the Stage One Digitization project, which placed over 12,000 photographic images online and moved the History Commission into the digital world. Today, she is one of the agency's Archival Managers.

A drop-in reception was held from 2:00 to 5:00 in the AHC second-floor conference room on Thursday, May 27, to wish Lynn well as she embarks on a new phase of her life. Lynn will be greatly missed.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! ebeavers@suddenlink.net —Thanks!

To learn more about Arkansas Genealogical Society, visit our website.
(<http://www.agsgenealogy.org>)

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.

If you have suggestions or comments about our ezine, feel free to contact me at ebeavers@suddenlink.net.

Missed an issue of the AGS Ezine? Check our online file of back issues. (<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm>)

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