



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 6, No. 5, November 2011

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George Mitchell, list manager

JOIN US!

If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member,
look at the back of your
Arkansas Family Historian.
Your membership expires
on the date printed under
your name.

It may be time to renew
your AGS membership dues!

The annual Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar and Book Fair is upon us in a few days. It is the biggest event of the AGS year. Interested historians coming together to hear a nationally known and admired genealogical speaker is an exciting event for most of us. On November 4 and 5, family historians will be gathering at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown North Little Rock to meet, greet, learn, and share with other genealogists.

Family historians never stop learning and they love to share what they learn with others. Mark Lowe is a premier instructor with a wealth of genealogical research experience. He shares his knowledge in an interesting and entertaining manner. On Friday night, November 4, he will be telling us the things we need to know about doing research in records in or from the court house. Many of our ancestors left few obvious records, but they were recorded in the court house books paying personal property taxes, acting as jurors, serving on road work crews and militias, and selling, buying, or mortgaging property.

On Saturday, November 5, Mark will advise us on how to overcome bad research and break down brick walls; how geographic divisions in a state affected history, our ancestors, and our research; how to find and use original sources, online or not; and how to research in North Carolina.

If you consider yourself a genealogist, this seminar will be like in-service training. Take a break and come have your mind stimulated with reminders or new ideas on how to improve your research results.

AGS Fall Seminar and Book Fair November 4 and 5

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar and Book Fair will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4, in the Wyndham Hotel at 2 Riverfront Place in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Eminent speaker Mark Lowe will present two lectures on *Preparing for a Day in Court*, one between 6:00 and 7:00 and the other between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Mark is a Certified Genealogist and a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association. Book vendors will be available to attendees and the public throughout the evening and again on Saturday throughout the day.

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, November 5, and at 9:00 a.m. Mark will present his first lecture of the day, *Out on a Limb, "Trapped by Bad Research and Brick Walls*. Following a break, at 10:30 a.m. he will present *The Big Three, Tennessee's Geographic Regions*.

The break for lunch will occur between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The annual general business meeting of AGS members will take place between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. Winners of the Family History Writing Contest will be announced and Priors data entry volunteers will be honored.

Following the membership meeting Mark Lowe will present *Is it Really Online: Finding and Using Original Sources at Home or in the Library* between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. and finish up with *North Carolina* between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Attendees can register for Friday only, Saturday only, or both days. Saturday registration includes lunch. Walk-ins are welcome but cannot be guaranteed a syllabus or lunch. Print a registration form from www.agsgenealogy.org.



Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA

Other Upcoming Events

November 10, 2011

Central Arkansas Genealogical and Historical Society, 6 p.m. at Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Arkansas Studies Institute, 401 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock, AR. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are always the 2nd Thursday of each month.

November 11, 2011

The Arkansas History Commission will be closed Friday, November 11, 2011, in observance of Veterans' Day. The Commission will be open on Saturday, November 12, 2011.

November 14, 2011

Monthly Genealogy Course: Finding Family Facts, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Arkansas Studies Institute, 401 President Clinton Ave., Room 204, 3:30 to 5 p.m., every second Monday. Beginner's genealogy class taught by Rhonda Stewart, the Butler Center's local history and genealogy expert. Participants will learn how to use online databases and city directories, as well as how to archive family documents. For more information, contact the Butler Center at 501-320-5700.

November 28, 2011

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, William Laman Library, 2801 Orange St., North Little Rock, AR. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are always the 4th Monday each month.

Research at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Researching at the Butler Center is a treat. First of all, it's located in the Arkansas Studies Institute which occupies a beautifully remodeled building on President Clinton Avenue in the River Market district of Little Rock. When you enter the foyer you can easily step past the elevator and browse the lovely gift shop and gallery area on the first floor for a few minutes.

When ready to research, you can take the elevator up to the Butler Center on the second floor. The room is quiet and if no one you know is there, no one bothers you. You can browse, read, and make photo copies as if in perfect solitude, but of course if you need help it is quickly provided.

In spite of its full name, the Butler Center holds a surprising variety of genealogical and local history resources from many places. I have done much of my New England research there, and recently went through a number of sources on Talbot County, Maryland, and Marlborough County, South Carolina. The Center holds printed resources for many other southern states as well. The Butler Center is the successor of the old genealogy room at the main Little Rock Library that years ago received and housed the collection of The Arkansas Genealogical Society. Furthermore, in my opinion, one of the most important collections the Butler Center holds is the NARA films of the entire unselected Revolutionary War Pension Applications.

Besides making Ancestry.com available in their research room, the Butler Center itself lists the following items for your use:

[CALS Online Catalog](#) – Information about genealogy and Arkansas history resources can be found by searching the CALS catalog.

[Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture](#) – The Encyclopedia of Arkansas is a great starting point for Arkansas-related research.

[Digital Collections](#) – The Digital Collections are a growing resource of research material from the Butler Center holdings and newly recorded material.

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[Heritage Quest Online](#) – Available from home with a CALS library card, HeritageQuest includes searchable images of U.S. Federal Census records, digitized family and local history books, an index to genealogical and local history periodicals, and other genealogy resources.

[Census on Microfilm](#) – Review the U.S. Census microfilm holdings available in the Arkansas Studies Institute research room.

[Marriage Records](#) – Review the Arkansas county marriage licenses on microfilm available in the Arkansas Studies Institute research room.

[Military Records](#) – Review the military service records on microfilm available in the Arkansas Studies Institute research room.

[Historical City Directories](#) – Review the Arkansas city directories on microfilm available in the Arkansas Studies Institute research room.

[Freedmen's Bureau Records](#) – Search a great source of African American genealogy in Arkansas on microfilm available in the Arkansas Studies Institute research room.

[Social Security Death Index](#) – The Social Security Administration Death Master File contains information on millions of deceased individuals with United States social security numbers whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration.

[Land Records](#) – Trace family histories through land ownership. Over 4.2 million land patent records from across the United States are now online, and 3 million have been imaged for the 30 public land states.

[Digital Sanborn Maps](#) – The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the state of Arkansas. Covers the years 1867-1970; not all years are available for all locations. (Please call 918-3000 for login and password.)

Be sure to check the CALS catalog for all your research interests. You may be surprised how much you find that will help you with your family history research.

rootstech 2012



Don't Miss the \$129 Early Bird Registration for RootsTech 2012 in Salt Lake City!

A new family history and technology conference to shape the future of genealogy

Innovating genealogy by bringing together users and creators of technology

February 2-4, 2012

Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah—Walking distance from the Family History Library

Early bird registration ends November 30, 2011

If you were one of the thousands of people to attend the inaugural [RootsTech Conference](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2011, you already know it is an event you do not want to miss in 2012! From groundbreaking topics, “unconferencing discussions”, to the RootsTech Playground, this conference will continue to deliver in its uniqueness.

Think major technology creators (Dell, Microsoft, Oracle, FamilySearch, brightsolid, Ancestry.com, Archives) and technology users (genealogists and family history buffs) coming together in a fun, collaborative environment for three days to learn new, technology-based skills and help influence the future of family history through technology!

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Be one of the thousands of RootsTech 2012 attendees to:

- Discover emerging technologies and devices to improve your research

- Learn from hands-on workshops and interactive presentations

- Collaborate with technology creators to advance family history through technology

- Educate technology providers about your needs

There will be sessions of interest to novice, intermediate, and advanced users of technology.

Sessions will include:

- Hands-on workshops

- Interactive presentations

- Sneak peek demonstrations of upcoming new products and services

- Panel discussions

- Common interest gatherings

- “Unconferencing” discussions (last minute, on-the-fly sessions requested by attendees)

Go to RootsTech.org now to see the full list of topics and sessions. [Register Now](#) at RootsTech.org, \$129 before November 30, 2011. \$189 beginning December 1, 2011. \$35 student rate (Must show a current student ID at admission).

The RootsTech conference is sponsored by Oracle, Microsoft, Dell, FamilySearch, Brigham Young University, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, brightsolid, Archives.com, Ancestry.com, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the National Genealogical Society.

New Exhibit at Rogers—*Benton County Crime Stories*

On October 15, 2011, the Rogers Historical Museum opened a new exhibit entitled *Benton County Crime Stories* about the history of law and order in Benton County from the 1830s to the 1990s. The museum is located at 322 South Second at the corner of Second and Cherry in the Rogers Historic District. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free.

Topics include peace officers, law breakers, courts and lawyers, and the development of laws. The exhibit is focused on Benton County, but also considers what happened regionally and how those trends influenced the way law was upheld locally.

The gallery features monitors that display rotating, digital images in addition to traditional text panels. Objects include badges, police equipment, documents, contraband items, and the restored 1894 Rogers City Jail cells. A computer interactive allows visitors to match suspects to wanted posters and provides insight into the various crimes that were common during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Visitors are able to hear crime-related news stories at a listening station and a “siren, lights, and 10-code radio” interactive introduces radio communications accompanied by the sound of an authentic 1960s Rogers Police Department siren. The role of law enforcement agencies is also illustrated in a rotating kiosk, while other interactives present studies of interesting crimes from Benton County history. Visitors can read about the crime and try to determine the outcome of the court case before opening the case file to learn the actual fate of the accused.

Dr. Gaye Bland is Director of the Rogers Historical Museum. The phone number is 479-621-1154 and Fax 479-621-1155. Email gbland@rogersark.org or visit www.rogersarkansas.com/museum. Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RogersHistoricalMuseum



New Web Tools

AGS received the following message from Randy Majors asking us to recommend his web tools:

Hello,

Your genealogical society members may find this free new Historical U.S. County Boundaries interactive map tool useful in their researches: <http://randymajors.com/p/maps.html>

A write-up on recent enhancements can be found here: <http://randymajors.com/2011/10/new-and-more-interactive-version-of.html>

Thank you for your consideration of including a mention of the tool in an upcoming newsletter or blog post.
All the best,

Randy Majors

free web tools: [AncestorSearch](#) and [Historical County Boundary Maps](#)

We tried them and we liked them. Your search for any historic place name plus a date will bring up a Google map with the historical boundaries of the time period of interest plus a brief history of those boundaries. You can additionally ask for court house, cemetery, church, and library locations on that same map.

His Ancestor Search gives you the advantage of automatically entering names in first/last, last/first, and alternate spelling formats for searching plus place names at the same time. Again this is using Google which brings up a number of personal and other websites that mention the ancestor you are searching for.

We would like to hear from you

A recent email to AGS:

Subject: October 2011 AGS eZine

You are in for a real treat with Mark Lowe!!! I wish I could be there, but it's not possible. He is an amazing genealogist and presenter.

Alice Lee in KY

We enjoyed hearing from Alice and would like to hear from you also.

If your local historical and/or genealogical society has a regular weekly or monthly meeting somewhere in Arkansas, let us know the place, date, and time and we will advertise it.

We'd like to highlight your society, library, or museum in a future E-zine. Send us the details so we can print them.

Let us know when your area is having a genealogical or historical seminar, workshop, fair, or other event a couple months ahead of time so we can include it in time in one or more E-zine issues.

From UpFront with NGS: [Unknown No Longer -- A Database of Virginia Slave Names](#)

This database is the latest step by the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) to increase access to its varied collections relating to Virginians of African descent. Since its founding in 1831, the VHS has collected unpublished manuscripts, a collection that now numbers more than 8 million processed items.

Within these documents are numerous accounts that collectively help tell the stories of African Americans who have lived in the state over the centuries. The database seeks to lift from the obscurity of unpublished historical records as much biographical detail as remains of the enslaved Virginians named in those documents. In some cases there may only be a name on a list; in others more details survive, including family relationships, occupations, and life dates.

Unknown No Longer does not contain names that may appear in published sources at the VHS or in unpublished sources located in repositories other than the VHS. On the other hand, those whose names appear in the database need not have lived their lives solely in Virginia, for our collections contain plantation records, for example, kept by Virginians who moved to other states, taking their slaves with them. In addition, if we know that an individual named in a post-Civil War document had been enslaved before 1865, his or her name will appear in the database.

It will take years to scour the millions of documents likely to contain the names of the enslaved and so Unknown No Longer has been launched as a work in progress. With the launch there are already more than 1,500 slave names in the database. *Editor's Note: Also check out the VHS Guide to African American Manuscripts, http://www.vahistorical.org/aamcvhs/guide_intro.htm.*



The screenshot shows the 'Unknown No Longer' website interface. At the top, it reads 'UNKNOWN NO LONGER VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'. Below this is a navigation bar with links: 'RECORD SEARCH', 'BROWSE BY RECORD TYPE', 'BROWSE BY LOCATION', 'RELATED RESOURCES', 'ABOUT THIS PROJECT', and 'MESSAGE BOARD'. The main content area features a search form titled 'Find A Record'. The form includes fields for 'First Name' and 'Last Name', each with a 'Contains' dropdown menu and a text input box. Below these are radio buttons for 'Gender' (Search Both, Male, Female) and a dropdown for 'Occupation' (Search All). A 'SEARCH' button is at the bottom left of the form, and a link for 'ADVANCED SEARCH OPTIONS' is at the bottom right. To the right of the search form is a large image of a historical document with a portrait of a person overlaid. At the bottom right of the image, there is a red banner with the text 'A DATABASE OF VIRGINIA SLAVE NAMES'. In the top right corner of the website, there are links for 'VHS HOME' and 'VHS CATALOG' along with social media icons for Facebook and Twitter.

Meet Our AGS Board Members: Karen Russ

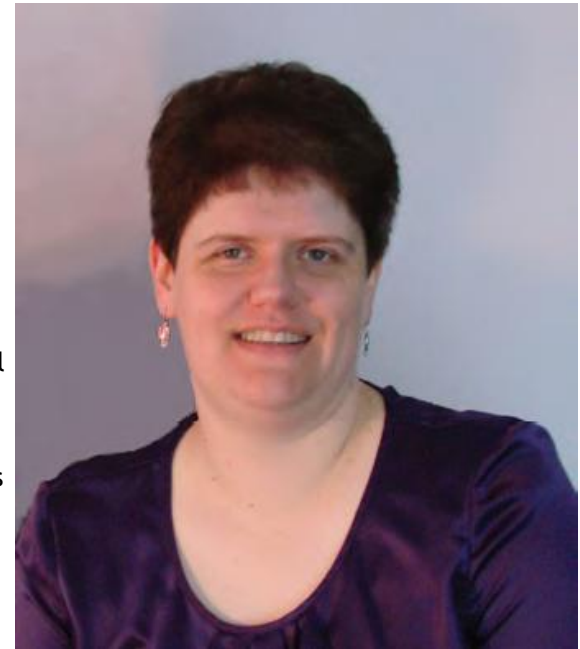
Karen Russ is the Government Information Librarian at the Ottenheimer Library of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock., where she has been for the past fifteen years. She has a Bachelors degree in History from the State University of New York College at Fredonia and a Masters in Library Science from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She began her genealogical research as part of a Girl Scout badge in fourth grade. It tapered off in high school but two college papers brought it to the forefront in the early 1990's and she has been copying, photographing, scanning, and writing, ever since.

When she began graduate school, she had no idea what a government publication was, but quickly learned to love them. Not long after finishing her degree and heading out into the work world, she uncovered the wide range of genealogical materials that could be found in materials published by federal agencies throughout the history of the nation.

In the past eighteen years, she has worked with numerous groups and individual researchers, assisting them with the use of government publications when looking for family members and researching family lore. Karen takes pleasure in giving presentations on various government resources and databases that will allow people to trace their families' interactions with federal agencies and projects

While Karen's roots are strongly buried in Western New York, she does have maternal ancestors with pre-revolutionary ties to Virginia and Tennessee, and more recently, Northwestern Missouri, and one, a great grand aunt, who lived in the northern part of Arkansas until her passing in 2001. All of her paternal lines can be traced back through Ellis Island to Poland in the early twentieth century.

Of late, she has been working with relatives to preserve letters written by family members serving around the globe during World War II. She hopes to have more time to dedicate to documenting several individuals before their families lose the necessary records. Karen is very grateful for the packrat nature of her father's family and the willingness of all family members to share photos and documents with her.



Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! susanb1996@aol.com –Thanks!

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

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