



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 7, No. 9, September 2012

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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!

There is so much more out there right now for genealogists than there has ever been, because so much of what we have needed has previously been inaccessible or accessible only with some difficulty. Plus the burgeoning interest in history and genealogy is resulting in all kinds of historical talks, exhibits, and events that broaden our understanding of our ancestors' lives. Genealogical conferences and institutes serve to educate us on everything from records and methodology to writing and technology. Increasingly new websites provide indexes to records or connect us to collections of documents and maps archived all over the world.

It's a dilemma. Family history research is never finished, and yet we need to stop occasionally to sort, enter, analyze, write, post, file and share. I don't know about you, but I'm on information overload. And yet we go back for more.

We subscribe to newsletters and journals and keep up with blogs to learn and stay informed, so we can remain apace of progress and not get left behind in pursuing our passion. In many ways the new technology has made our research easier, but in other ways it has increased the pressure. We must remember that a great number of the documents that will help us flesh out our ancestors or solve our genealogical puzzles are yet to be sought or found. And they probably are not digitized and online or even indexed or mentioned online.

And how do we learn about them? Well, by reading and mingling with other genealogists of course, at meetings, talks, conferences and online.

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Tidbits

From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:

Indian Territory Records Digitized

The Oklahoma Secretary of State's Office and the Oklahoma Historical Society have partnered to digitize and index Oklahoma and Indian Territories incorporation records.

Debra Spindle, Oklahoma Historical Society research librarian, said that the ledger books from 1890 to 1907 were created by the territorial secretary as new businesses and municipalities began conducting business.

To access the database, go to the Oklahoma History Center website, www.okhistory.org/research/index, click on "Oklahoma resources," then click on "New! Territorial Incorporation Records." For tips on how to research the records, visit Debra Spindle's website <http://goo.gl/WLutg>

From Ancestry: FREE CENSUS ACCESS THROUGH MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 3

If you don't subscribe, this is a chance for you to make good use of your holiday weekend.

Coming Events

Through September 8, 2012

“Fought in earnest,” Arkansas History Commission Civil War Exhibit, Arkansas Supreme Court Building, Little Rock.

September 9, 2012

The Pulaski County Historical Society, “In Search of the Little Rock, Maumelle, and Western Railroad—The Neimeyer Line” by Mike Hood, Civil Engineering Manager for the City of Little Rock, at the Darragh Center, Central Arkansas Library, 2:00.

September 11, 2012

Making Sense of the Civil War, Imagining War, public discussion led by Dr. William Shea, Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library, 200 E. 8th Ave., register at 870-534-4802

September 17, 2012

Researching Military Records from 1776 to World War II, presented by Russell Baker at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

September 20, 2012

The Civil War in Arkansas, 1862, presented by Ian Beard, Education Director of Old State House Museum, at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Coming Events continued

September 28-30, 2012

The Lakeport Plantation, Lake Village, Arkansas, Fifth Anniversary celebration. The three-day event will include restoration team presentations, guided tours, opening of new permanent exhibits, and a Lakeport Family Reunion. Free except for meals. Register by September 14 at <http://lakeport.astate.edu>

October 6, 2012

Chat with James Johnston, “The Skirmishes at Woolum,” presented at Woolum, Buffalo National River, 5:30.

October 8, 2012

One Dress, Dyan Bohnert, civil war reenactor will present a program about the “one dress” many civil war women had to wear, Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30-7:30.

October 26-27

Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar and Book Fair, Wyndham Hotel, #2 Riverfront Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Friday, registration 5:00 p.m., program 6-9:15 p.m. includes Russell Baker, “The Blue and the Gray”; special feature “Who Are Your People, Craig O’Neill?”; and Greg Boyd, “Arphax-HistoryGeo.com” about new online services of Arphax Publishing. Saturday registration 8 a.m., featured speaker Barbara Renick will speak 9-4:00 on genealogy using 21st century technology. \$50, includes box lunch on Saturday. Vendors open 5-9 p.m. Friday and 8-3 Saturday. For Wyndham Hotel reservations call 501-371-9000 or toll free 1-866-657-4458 [this is new information since the flyer went out]. For a registration form and additional information, go to www.agsgenealogy.org

Arkansas Genealogical Society 50th Anniversary Fall Seminar and Book Fair

Make your plans and reservations now to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Arkansas Genealogical Society. The annual seminar and book fair will be held on October 26 and 27 at the Wyndham Hotel on Riverfront Drive in North Little Rock, Arkansas with a special twist of celebrating fifty years. The theme is *Moving into the Future—Looking Back at the Past*, something genealogists continually do as they adopt the new technology in their never-ending search for the past of their ancestors.

If you did not receive a registration form in the mail, you can print one from the website at www.agsgenealogy.org. If you need a room overnight, the phone numbers for the Wyndham are 501-371-9000 or toll free 1-866-657-4458. **[this is a correction as the phone numbers were incorrect on the flyer that was mailed and distributed.]** Mention Arkansas Genealogical Society for a special rate of \$89.95, single or double.

During the Saturday lectures, nationally known speaker and author Barbara Renick will inform us about *How Computers and Gadgets are Changing Genealogical Research*, *Overcoming Idiosyncrasies of Genealogy Database Sites*, *Finding More with the New FamilySearch Catalog*, and *Tackling Tough Genealogy Tasks with 21st Century Technology*.

On Friday evening, we will present a special program called *Who Are Your People, Craig O'Neill?* The well-known Arkansas radio and television personality will be treated to an interactive display of his family tree. Come and find out if you are related. Other programs will be presented by Russell Baker, *The Blue and the Gray: Looking for Civil War Ancestors*, and Greg Boyd, *Arphax-HistoryGeo.com: A Revolutionary New Map Service from Arphax Publishing*.

Friday registration will open at 5:00 p.m. and lectures will begin at 6:00. The vendors will be open from 5-9 p.m.

Saturday registration will open at 8:00 a.m. and lectures will begin at 9:00. Lunch will be served at 11:30 and the AGS annual meeting will take place at 12:45. The society would like to honor former AGS board members at this time. We hope to see you there.

The National Park Service Presents Civil War Chat with James Johnston

October 6, 2012

Title: “The Skirmishes at Woolum”

Location: Woolum (Buffalo National River)

Time: 5:30PM

Abstract: Federal scouts in the Buffalo River watershed came across resident Confederate guerrillas who contested their passage. Two particularly hard fought skirmishes occurred just up Richland Creek on Christmas Day, 1863 and May 3 & 5, 1864 when Confederates annihilated a 40-wagon forage train of the 2nd Arkansas Cavalry (Union) out of Bellefonte. Other Union scouts to the vicinity would surprise small bands of Confederates or raid their saltpeter works, used to make gunpowder locally. Often both Union and Confederate participants in these skirmishes would be from the area.

Adopt a soldier at historic Mount Holly Cemetery

Mount Holly Cemetery is the final resting place of 189 Confederate Veterans. More than a dozen tombstones are being ordered through the Veterans Affairs Memorial Office in an effort to ensure that each Veteran has a marker. However, while conducting a recent census of the graves of these soldiers, it was discovered that only a few of the grave sites have the benefit of an iron Southern Cross of Honor placed upon their grave.

There is an immediate need for 166 iron Southern Crosses of Honor to be placed on the graves of the Confederate dead.

The General T. J. Churchill Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy has initiated an ADOPT A COFEDERATE SOLDIER AT MOUNT HOLLY program in an effort to purchase and install the Southern Cross of Honor on the graves of identified Confederate soldiers.

Your 100% tax deductible donation in the amount of \$100.00 will enable you to adopt a Confederate Soldier who is buried beneath the soil of historic Mount Holly Cemetery.

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE FOR YOUR \$100.00:

- Tax deductible letter for your generous donation of \$100.00
- Installation of the Southern Cross of Honor at gravesite
- Certificate, suitable for framing, with the name of your adopted Confederate soldier
- Fact sheet of personal information to include birth, death dates, Confederate service information, and copy of the printed obituary (when available)
- Exact address of the grave site, providing donor with a sense of ownership for this soldier.

To adopt a soldier, make checks payable to Gen. T. J. Churchill Chapter, UDC in the amount of \$100.00 per adoption. Please mail to: Kay Tatum, President, 1010 S. Scott St., Little Rock, AR 72202-3824 or contact kay.tatum@yahoo.com or call (501) 375-5197.

Lakeport Plantation to Celebrate Fifth Anniversary



The Lakeport Plantation will celebrate its Fifth Anniversary Sept. 28-30, 2012. The three-day event will include restoration team presentations, guided tours, opening of new permanent exhibits, and a Lakeport Family Reunion.

The plantation home is an Arkansas State University Heritage Site, built ca. 1859 for the Johnson family of Kentucky. One of Arkansas's premiere historic structures, it has changed little since its original construction and is the last antebellum plantation home in Arkansas on the Mississippi River. The Sam Epstein Angel family of Lake Village deeded the house to the university in 2001. Restoration began in 2002, using the highest level of U. S. Department of Interior standards for rehabilitation, and the restored home opened to the public in 2007.

Since its opening, thousands of visitors from all over Arkansas, the United States, and the globe have toured the plantation. Lakeport now enters a new phase with the installation of permanent exhibits, designed in collaboration with Quatrefoil Associates in Laurel, Maryland. Exhibits are based on years of restoration and research in family records, archives and oral histories.

“The house itself will always be our major exhibit,” stated Dr. Ruth Hawkins, executive director of Arkansas Heritage Sites at ASU. “We wanted to enhance the visitor experience, however, with unobtrusive exhibits that tell the stories of the house, the restoration, and the people who lived and worked at Lakeport.”

New exhibits also will display artifacts found during restoration and original items donated back to the house. Dr.

Lakeport (continued)

Blake Wintory, director of Lakeport Plantation, said his personal favorite is a case full of artifacts, dating between 1860 and 1970, which were found behind mantels during restoration. “From the time the Johnsons moved into the house in 1860, people began losing pictures, letters, business cards and other objects behind the mantels,” Wintory said. “These lost and found artifacts are a fascinating record of their lives.”

The Lakeport Family Reunion will include descendants of the Johnson family, other residents of Lakeport, and descendants of African Americans who lived and worked at Lakeport as enslaved laborers and later as tenant farmers.

Early registration will take place from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28 at the Guachoya Cultural Arts Center in Lake Village. Permanent exhibits will be unveiled at the plantation house at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, followed by presentations related to new discoveries at Lakeport from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Lakeport lawn.

Saturday afternoon events will include a 2 p.m. tour of the Epstein Cotton Gin in Lake Village, led by Sammy E. Angel, and a 3:30 p.m. guided walking tour of downtown Lake Village by Rachel Silva of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. A social hour at the restored historic Tushek Building begins at 5 p.m., followed by a Homemade Spaghetti Dinner at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Parish Hall. The dinner will include a presentation by community historian Libby Borgognoni on Chicot County’s Italian history.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, a panel of Johnson descendants will present “Memories of the Family” at 10 a.m., followed by “Memories of the Community” featuring Lakeport area residents at 11 a.m. A noon barbeque lunch will end the celebration.

The three-day event is open to the public, but registration is required by Sept. 14. There is a charge for the meals. For information on registration, visit <http://lakeport.astate.edu>, call 870.265.6031, or email lakeport.ar@gmail.com

A New Cross County Book

The Cross County Historical Society is pleased to present a new book celebrating the history of Cross County and the many families who have called this area home. *Cross County, Arkansas History & Families* features a comprehensive history of Cross County and includes hundreds of historic photographs depicting how life in Cross County has changed through the years. The photographs, many never-before-published, are from the archives of the Cross County Historical Society, and also feature images from family collections, handed down from generation to generation, capturing the true heritage of our way of life and the people.

The images in this book cover all walks of life, including agriculture, athletics, business, churches, communities, families, government, historic homes, local history, military, organizations, schools, transportation and more. The book also features some of the county's more prominent businesses, churches, organizations and people.

When you read *Cross County, Arkansas History & Families* you will appreciate the area's wonderful legacy, and understand why the people of Cross County will continue to prosper for years and years to come.

The Cross County Museum & Archives is housed in a former four-room schoolhouse located on the courthouse grounds. The building was built in 1938 with WPA funds and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Archives holds original courthouse books dating from 1862 to the 1920s, as well as other probate, civil and criminal records. Artifacts include a circa 1250-1450 A.D. Indian Pottery collection from the Cherry Valley Mounds as well as memorabilia, local fossils and antique farm equipment and implements, among other things.

8 ½ x 11" hardbound, 432 pages

Available Through: Cross County Museum & Archives, PO Box 943, 711 E Union Ave., Wynne, AR 72396

Ph: 870-238-4100

Hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Making Sense of the American Civil War from Mark Christ at Arkansas Historic Preservation

Making Sense of the American Civil War is a scholar-led reading and discussion program for public audiences, presented by the Arkansas Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office.

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library and the Arkansas Humanities Council will host a reading and discussion program in Pine Bluff, with sessions taking place every two weeks. At each session, the conversation will focus on a different facet of the Civil War experience, using one or more common texts as a foundation and touchstone.

The Pine Bluff sessions will begin at 5:30 and be led by Dr. William Shea, noted Civil War historian, author and professor of history at the University of Arkansas, Monticello.

The books provided by AHC are:

- Geraldine Brooks, *March*
- James M. McPherson, *Crossroads of Freedom*
- *America's War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150th Anniversaries*, an anthology edited by Edward L. Ayers

Schedule:

- September 11 - Imagining War
- September 25 - Choosing Sides
- October 9 - Making Sense of War
- October 23 - The Shape of War
- November 6 - War and Freedom

The sessions will be held at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library and are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Please contact to the library to sign up and check out the required books. Phone 870.534.4802.

ArchiveGrid

My thanks go out to the New England Historic Genealogical Society for making me aware of ArchiveGrid, a source for locating primary source material. Free access to this site is now available at <http://archivegrid.org/web/index.jsp>

This is not a site where you are going to find digitized records or even indexes to records. It is a site where you may learn that original records exist for the family, person, group of people, locale, or event you are researching. This is not a site specifically for genealogists, but many of the contributing archives have holdings of interest to genealogists.

ArchiveGrid provides researchers with descriptive information about manuscripts and special collections held in libraries and archives around the world. If you find something of interest, you can view catalog information for the item as well as contact information for the facility. Some listings include finding aids. Materials include bible records, diaries, family histories, historical documents, letters, local histories, personal papers, photographs, and scrapbooks.

When I explored the site, I was amazed at the wide range of contributing institutions and the breadth of the collections represented. They are housed in historical societies, museums, public libraries, universities, and archives.

You can look for archives near you by location or zip code or you can look for archives by state or country. For Arkansas, the Arkansas History Commission, Central Arkansas Library System, Harding University-Brackett Library, and University of Arkansas, Fayetteville-David R. Mullins Library are listed. Browse the alphabetical list of contributing archives. I was surprised at the number of small town or historical society libraries that were on this list.

Many of the great genealogical libraries are contributing members: Allen County Public Library, the Newberry Library in Chicago, Dallas Public Library-Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division, Mid-continent Library in Independence, Missouri, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the Library of Virginia, and many others.

(continued on p. 13)

ArchiveGrid (continued)

On this site you can browse topics such as African American history, Immigration and Expansion, or War/Military, just to name a few. Under the topic *Society, Culture*, a click on *Family and friendship* brought up a long list of family papers. One of them was a July 5, 1838 letter written by Charlotte W. Ellis of Camden, South Carolina, to Miss Margaret Bross in Flat Rock, North Carolina, informing her of the deaths of Charlotte's brother and sister and inviting her to visit her in Camden while she is en route to Charleston.

The database, developed by OCLC Research, was formerly available by paid subscription only, but now is offered as a free site, currently in beta version. The developers invite feedback and input from users of the database.

The Heritage House Museum, Montgomery County, Arkansas

This excellent institution combines a museum, historic homes, and a genealogical and local history research facility. It is open to the public six days of the week, except Thursdays. Usual hours are 9 am to 4 pm. Saturdays hours are 1 to 4 pm. The staff publishes a monthly newsletter called *Heritage House News*. The June 2012 issue contains an article on the history of education in the county. The museum is located on State Highway 27 on the south side of Mount Ida.

819 Luzerne St.

P. O. Box 1362

Mount Ida, AR 71957

Old Maps Online

Genealogists know that maps can be very helpful in orienting their ancestors in locales, imagining how they moved from place to place, and theorizing why they settled where they did. Besides, genealogists and historians just enjoy studying maps—they put things in context.

One good source of digital historic maps is at www.oldmapsonline.org which is actually a gateway to some very large and important map collections in libraries worldwide. The collections include two from Great Britain, including the British Library Map Library, and A Vision of Britain Through Time, Historical Map Library. Other collections are the David Rumsey Map Collection, the Dutch National Archives which includes materials from 100 different archives, the Moravian Library, the National Library of Scotland, the New York Public Library Map Collection, and the Norman B. Levanthal Map Center at the Boston Public Library. In some cases only a part of a collection is directly linked from Old Maps Online, but a link to the entire collection is provided.

This site allows you to search geographically by place name or by clicking on a world map window to designate an area of interest. Across the top of the window is a time line which you can adjust for the time period you desire. A vertical display of search results will come up on the right. When you click on one, an enlarged display of it will provide source information and an option to “View this map.” Clicking there will take you directly to that map on the website of the hosting library. You can zoom in and out and print if you wish.

I viewed two detailed maps of Arkansas Territory in 1822 and 1826, both from the *David Rumsey Map Collection*.

When searching for digital maps, you might consider the portal that Old Maps Online provides to access the greatest number of maps at one time.

From the Ancestry Insider at <http://www.ancestryinsider.blogspot.com>

The Ancestry Insider professes to be the “unofficial, unauthorized view of Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.” He “reports on, defends, and constructively criticizes these two websites and associated topics.” He “attempts to fairly and evenly support both.” I recommend his blog as a simple, easy way to keep up with the two digitizing giants and their latest changes or accomplishments.

The following from his blog brought to our attention an opportunity to view the inside of a project:

[FamilySearch, Fold3, National Archives Joint Project](#)

Posted: 22 Aug 2012 11:05 PM PDT

The National Archives recently released a new video in their “Inside the Vaults” series that highlights the project to digitize the Civil War widows’ pension files. A team of 60 volunteers led by National Archives personnel crossed the 100,000 mark of 1.28 million case files. [FamilySearch](#) is providing volunteers who create the digital images. I think Fold3 produces the index. [Fold3.com](#) publishes the index and images on their website.

.....

Ed. Click on FamilySearch, Fold3, National Archives Joint Project above to view the video of the project. It takes about five minutes to watch and is informative. The video is well done and provides an excellent view of what actually takes place in the processing of manuscripts to get them to the point of filming or digitizing. The volunteers who are giving of their time are doing us all a big favor. The long-lasting importance of this project and its contribution to preserving valuable records while increasing public access to them is immeasurable.

Administrative Stuff

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

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