



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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Susan G. Boyle, editor
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!

Happy New Year! Besides good health and happiness, I hope 2013 will bring each and every one of you boundless opportunities for substantial progress in your family history research. May your brick walls fall and may your knowledge of your ancestral family members increase greatly.

Make a new year's resolution to keep a record of the sources you survey as you research. Create citations of the documents that provide you with new information as you use them. If you don't, you won't remember later where you found the information or how you found it. In the end, documentation of information is the life-blood of our genealogical compilations. The detail—whether birth date, burial place, spouse's name, or occupation—is worth nothing if its source is not cited.

Historically, some genealogical publications have contained spurious information assumed or invented by researchers who failed to analyze all the available records or who desired only to be related to prominent persons of their choice, not necessarily of their actual family. Now, with the plethora of undocumented information perpetuated on the internet, it often is impossible to track evidence back to its source in order to judge its credibility.

Evidence that lacks credibility is worse than no evidence at all. Every researcher deserves the opportunity to retrace your steps back to the source of your evidence to judge for himself if the source is believable, that you have analyzed the evidence properly, and that it agrees with other evidence available. He does not have that opportunity if you do not cite your sources.

Inside this issue

Coming Events	3
Genealogy for You Seminar	4-5
News from the Arkansas History Commission	6
Good news for War of 1812 Pensions Digitization	7-8
More good news for War of 1812 Pensions Digitization	9-10
Census Reference Reports From the National Archives	11-12
Meet a new AGS Board Member	13

Tidbits —

State's death certificates go online

Records from 1935-'61 available for searches, ordering

By [Katie Doherty](#) [ArkansasOnline—*Arkansas-Democrat Gazette*]

This article was published today at 9:15 a.m. [Dec. 12, 2012]

The Arkansas Department of Health on Monday rolled out a service that allows users to search state death certificates on the Web.

Previously, the records were available only through in-person requests or paper-form submissions.

Currently, only records of deaths that occurred from 1935 to 1961 are available on the website, https://www.ark.org/doh_dcs/, but the department said that workers will be adding records in the coming months.

The website allows searches using parameters such as last name, death date, county of death and state of birth.

Copies of death certificates cost \$10 for the first and \$8 for each additional, the Department of Health said in a statement.

Coming Events

January 14, 2013

Abraham Lincoln and Arkansas: The President's Influence and Interest in the State presented by Dr. Trey Berry, Dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts, Southern Arkansas University, 6:30 pm, Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Arkansas.

February 11-12, 2013

The Quilted History-A Tapestry of the African-American Experience, an exhibit by Ms. Carolyn Williams of El Dorado, Arkansas, 11:00 am-6:30 pm on Monday and 9:00 am-12 noon on Tuesday. Ms. Williams will present a program about her exhibit on Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 pm. Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Arkansas.

March 9, 2013

For the annual Genealogy For You Seminar at Saline County Library, Mr. George G. Morgan of Tampa, Florida, will make four presentations: Session I will be entitled *Getting the Most from Ancestry Library Edition*; Session II-*New Ways to Research Our Roots*; Session III-*Bits about Obits: Reading between the lines*; Session IV-*Alternate Records You May Have Never Considered*. Lunch will be on your own. Please register by calling 501-788-4766.

March 21-23, 2013

RootsTech, Family History and Technology Conference, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. See details and register online at <http://rootstech.org>

Annual Genealogy for You Seminar at Benton Library to feature George C. Morgan

George G. Morgan is a Renaissance man of genealogy—blogger, podcaster, researcher, educator, author, and speaker, all rolled into one engaging package. Based in Tampa, Florida, George is a self-proclaimed “rabid genealogist.” His enthusiasm shines through all he does. Co-host with Drew Smith of the world’s longest-running genealogy podcast—*The Genealogy Guys Podcast*—George is passionate about genealogical research, both in America and “across the pond” in England and Ireland. He is a serial early adapter of technologies including blogging, podcasting, smart phones, and more. A veteran genealogical society leader at local, state, and national levels, George loves to strategize about making genealogical societies more fun and more useful.

The Genealogy Guys' Podcast is a weekly one-hour discussion about genealogy news, events, people, issues, resources, tips, techniques, technology, book and soft-ware reviews, and a wide variety of other genealogy-related ideas currently on the minds of The Genealogy Guys.

The Guys are occasionally joined by a variety of guests including authors, editors, publishers, speakers, vendors, professional researchers, software programmers, society officers, historians, librarians, and archivists. They also occasionally record live at genealogical societies' conferences!

Visit <http://genealogyguys.com> in order to download the most recent show as well as any earlier shows.

The annual Genealogy For You Seminar will be held Saturday, March 9 beginning at 9:00 am and the seminar will end at 3:30 pm. You will have an hour and 15 minutes for lunch on your own. Here is the schedule and topics:

9:00–9:20 am, Preregistration

9:20-9:30 am, Welcome—Steve Perdue

9:30-10:30 am, Session I—Getting the most from Ancestry Library Edition;

(continued p. 5)

Genealogy for you seminar (continued)

10:30-10:45 am, Break;

10:45-11:45 am—Session II—New Ways to Research Our Roots

11:45 am-1:00 pm, LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (There are many restaurants in the area)

1:00-2:00 pm, Session III—Bits about Obits: Reading between the lines;

2:00-2:15 pm, Break;

2:15-3:15 pm, Session IV—Alternate Records You May Have Never Considered;

3:15-3:30 pm—Questions

You will need to register for this seminar by calling the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library at 501-778-4766. Seating is limited so please call today. The seminar is free to the public. **Remember to Register!**

News from the Arkansas History Commission

Dr. Wendy Richter announced her resignation from the Arkansas History Commission at the December 6 Commission meeting. Richter will continue her career in Arkansas becoming the Head of Special Collections and Associate Professor at Ouachita Baptist University. Her last day at the Commission is December 31 and she begins her new position in January 2013.

Richter's leadership of the Commission has resulted in a complete renovation of the state's official archives. "In her seven years with the Arkansas History Commission, Wendy transformed the operation in three major areas. First, she transformed the physical space—more space has been added for staff and collections storage and the research room has been arranged for easier use by patrons and staff; second, she changed the way the Commission operates—patrons now have more hands on access to materials than ever before; and lastly, she improved the perception of the Commission by moving the Commission into outreach that resulted in many people learning about the scope and potential of the Commission's collections for the first time," said Dr. Ray Granade, chairman of the Commission. "I will miss her ability, experience and helpful personality," he continued.

Richter started as Director of the Commission in 2005, replacing long-time director, Dr. John L. Ferguson. She has spent her career in the archives field, working at Weyerhaeuser, the Garland County Historical Society, the History Commission and Ouachita Baptist University. She returns to OBU replacing Phyllis Kennison as Head of Special Collections.

"Wendy understands how archives work both from a staff and visitor perspective. She has increased my knowledge of how archives work and taught me a great deal about how to do archives right and what not to do," said Richard Davies, Director of Parks and Tourism. "Her expansion of the archives to include the regional archives at SARA and NEARA makes the collection more accessible to Arkansans than ever before," he continued. Davies cited her "honest belief in the importance of the largest collection of Arkansas documents anywhere" and her commitment to "take care of it, make it available and be able to find it" as her strongest attributes.

In announcing her resignation Richter said: "Becoming State Historian was a career-long dream. It has been an honor to serve the commission and I will always be grateful for the opportunity." The Commission announced Archival Manager Jane Wilkerson as interim Director. A search to fill Richter's position will begin immediately.

From Genealogy Gems, News from the Fort Wayne Library

Dec. 1 Press Release from FGS

War of 1812 Pension Digitization Fund Receives Generous \$250,000 Donation

AUSTIN, Texas—The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is pleased to announce that the War of 1812 “Preserve the Pensions” Digitization Fund received a generous donation this week of \$250,000 from FamilySearch, a nonprofit organization and world leader in the genealogy community. The donation helps move the Fund closer to its goal of \$3.7 million in donations to digitally preserve and index the War of 1812 pension and bounty land records.

The War of 1812, often called the “Second Revolution,” was a pivotal moment in our nation’s history. Individual states struggled to become one nation after a long-fought Revolution, and the “American Experiment” was still at a precarious stage. The strength and courage of the patriots who fought in the War of 1812 ensured that our American Revolution did not end up as a mere footnote in British history. Instead, valiant farmers, merchants, seamen, fathers and sons became soldiers to fight for what they and their fathers had believed in: Their American home.

Now, two hundred years later, the War of 1812 “Preserve the Pensions” Digitization Fund celebrates their success, honor and memories by digitally preserving the veterans’ pension records and making them freely accessible to all online. The initiative will digitally preserve the 180,000 War of 1812 pension records (7.2 million pages) located at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and create a searchable index online. Currently, NARA receives more than 3,000 patron requests per year for copies of soldiers’ files.

“The Federation is extremely grateful to FamilySearch for its generous support of this enormously important endeavor,” said Curt Witcher, vice president of development for FGS. “Linking the genealogical community, marshaling that community’s resources, preserving and making accessible records that document our heritage—all are central to the Federation’s mission. FamilySearch’s very generous pacesetting gift helps ensure that this 21st century preservation and access project is a reality.”

From Genealogy Gems continued

David Rencher, chief genealogy officer for FamilySearch, said, “FamilySearch publishes over 400 million images of historic documents online for free each year, and is honored to support community efforts like the War of 1812 ‘Preserve the Pensions’ Digitization Fund to preserve and make additional high priority historic records more widely available.”

The War of 1812 files are very valuable to family historians and genealogists because they contain rich information such as:

- Veteran’s name and age
- Residence
- Widow’s name and maiden name
- Service history and dates
- Military rank and organization
- If Bounty Land was granted and information about those warrants
- Marriage information
- Death dates for soldiers and widows
- Additional names of neighbors and comrades

Anyone can donate to the project at www.fgs.org/1812. Each pension page costs 45 cents to digitize. Each dollar of contribution digitizes two pages. Every little bit helps. To view the FREE images already online, go to: <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions>

[Ed. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is one of the great genealogy libraries in the country. Its free email newsletter “Genealogy Gems” is well worth your time to read, including as it does not just news of the Genealogy Center, but also helpful articles about using various records, information on doing different kinds of research, using computer programs, and general genealogy news as well. You can subscribe at www.GenealogyCenter.org, scroll to bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.]

FROM the FGS Voice

[FGS Member Society ISGS Raises Over \\$40,000 During War of 1812 Records Preservation Campaign](#)

Dec 11, 2012 11:42 am | Thomas MacEntee

Preserve the Pensions Project to Digitize Important Pension Records and Provide Free Access to the Public

December 11, 2012 - Springfield, IL. The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) is proud to announce that it has completed its recently launched \$10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge with strong support from ISGS members as well as the genealogical community.

On June 18, 2012, the 200th anniversary of the declaration of the War of 1812, ISGS announced its \$10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge. ISGS made a commitment to match any contribution (up to the first \$10,000) made to the Preserve the Pensions project before December 31, 2012. In addition, Ancestry.com announced that it would also match all monies donated during the campaign, resulting in all contributions being quadrupled. A total of \$40,000 to be donated to the Preserve the Pensions project will result in 88,888 additional pages of the *War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files* being digitized over the next few months.



The Preserve the Pensions campaign (<http://www.preservethepensions.org>), sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies (<http://www.fgs.org>) along with Ancestry.com, Fold3 and the National Archives, seeks to raise over \$3.7 Million needed to digitize the War of 1812 pension files that are currently stored in the National Archives and make them freely available online. With over 180,000 Pension files in this historic record set and over 7.2 million pages, access to these records will benefit not only genealogists and family historians, but a variety of researchers. In addition, the digitization project will help preserve and halt further damage to these historical documents. The files are being digitized as funds become available and many (continued p. 10)

FROM the FGS Voice (continued)

files are already viewable by visiting <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>.

ISGS President Jane Haldeman notes: “The ISGS board made a strong commitment to the preservation of the War of 1812 Pension Records when it issued the fundraising challenge earlier this year. ISGS thanks all who contributed, especially those members of the genealogy community who are not members of ISGS. Digitizing these records will benefit ALL genealogists and hopefully result in more people locating information about their ancestors.”

About Illinois State Genealogical Society

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) was formed in 1968 through the cooperative effort and forward thinking of Illinois genealogical society representatives, who envisioned a statewide genealogical organization. ISGS is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian, educational organization. ISGS was established for the following purposes:

- To stimulate an interest in the people who contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois.
- To seek, preserve, and make available data pertaining to individuals, families, and groups who lived in Illinois and to events which took place therein.
- To inform people of the value of, and need for, preserving family and local history for posterity.
- To encourage the formation of local genealogical societies and to coordinate and disseminate information.

Follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ILgensoc>), Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/ILgensoc>) and on our blog at <http://ilgensoc.blogspot.com>

FROM the NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Census Reference Reports are now available on the National Archives website at www.archives.gov/research/census/reference-reports/

AVAILABLE REPORTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Reference reports for genealogical research are brief (one-to four-page) descriptions of research strategies for frequently used records of genealogical interest held at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. In addition to Census, the reference reports currently available online include African Americans, Military, Native Americans, and Immigration.

U.S. NATIONAL CENSUS REFERENCE REPORTS

Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution authorized the taking of a national census in the United States every 10 years to enumerate or count the population for apportioning representatives to the lower house of Congress. The first census was conducted in 1790 and included the 13 original states as well as the districts of Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). Initially listing only the heads of households, over time the Federal census included more detailed information and questions that reflected the social, ethnic, financial, and occupational status of ordinary Americans.

Census reference reports describe research strategies using the Federal decennial censuses from 1790 to 1940, as well as available published indexes and the soundex. The reports also cover more specialized topics such as

- Nonpopulation schedules for agriculture, manufacturing and industries, mortality, social statistics, and defective, dependent, and delinquent classes
- early census records for the District of Columbia
- enumeration district (ED) maps

(continued p. 12)

FROM the NATIONAL ARCHIVES continued

- and searching for African Americans in the census.

[ED. The following reference reports are available as PDF versions on the website.]

U.S. Census Records, 1790-1940

Federal Nonpopulation Census Schedules, 1850-1880

Enumeration District (ED) Census Maps, 1880-1930

1940 Census: Searching for Census Maps and Enumeration District Descriptions

AFRICAN AMERICANS

African-Americans and the Federal Census, 1790-1930

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Early Census Schedules for the District of Columbia, 1790-1840

Federal Census Records Relating to the District of Columbia, 1800-1940

Future releases will include reports about Asian Americans, Citizenship, Civil Service (Federal Employees), District of Columbia, Hispanic Americans, and Land Records. For more information, please visit the reference reports main page at

www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/reference-reports.html RESEARCHER NEWS | AUTUMN 2012 Online & Social Media

Meet a new AGS Board Member

Lauren Jarvis is an Archivist at the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.A. in History and Folklore from Arkansas State University and is currently working on a master's degree in Public History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Prior to joining the History Commission staff she worked as a graduate assistant at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

Lauren was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and after leaving the state for several years, returned to Conway, Arkansas, where she lived for ten years and graduated from Conway High School. She enjoys studying the social impact of history, examining how historical events such as epidemics or natural disasters impact and change various communities. She is also interested in immigration research, specifically Italian and Polish records, since her family came over around the turn of the century. As a first generation Arkansan, she also searches for records in Tennessee and Ohio, where her family has roots.



Administrative Stuff

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

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