



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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AGS Ezine

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George Mitchell, list manager

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### 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 amount of new genealogical information on the internet continues to amaze. While perusing an email from Ancestry.com I clicked on a new collections list and found they had uploaded all the Connecticut findagrave.com links. I would have looked for my brother-in-law's Page family members there sooner or later, but having it dumped in my lap, so to speak, I couldn't resist a foray into information previously so difficult to get at. And there they were, many of the Page family members for whom I had no death dates, let alone burial places. And with photos of the stones.

In years past, it would have been much more time-consuming and involved an expensive trip to the locale, or at the very least, writing to someone for help, reading through films of town records or church records, or trying to find cemetery surveys, if any had been done.

Yes, we genealogists are in fat city now. The downside of this wealth, almost glut, of information, is that genealogists forget to get to the original records to make sure that the transcription is accurate or to ensure there has been no typo or misreading of the information. The libraries and archives are still full of books and films, manuscripts, indexes, and public and private records, that are not yet online. Genealogists still need to know what records were created, where they are located, how to access them, and how to use them.

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## Tidbits —

The most exciting genealogy news I've heard in a long time:

The Ancestry Insider writing from the Roots Tech Conference in Salt Lake City on 22 March reported that an opening session keynote speaker shared some great news with genealogists:

“It’s exciting for me to stand on this stage at this conference and announce our largest and most ambitious collaboration with FamilySearch ever,” said [Tim] Sullivan, president and CEO of Ancestry.com. “Over the next three years FamilySearch and Ancestry are going to work together to digitize and index over 140 million pages of U.S. probate records spanning from 1800 to 1930.”

Tim acknowledged FamilySearch’s decades of work filming these documents. Efforts are underway to secure rights from administrators and archives to publish these records online, and the progress is positive.

Sullivan committed to spend over \$100 million over the next five years to digitize and index new content for publication on [Ancestry.com](#), [Fold3](#), and [Archives.com](#). “We’re investing aggressively in new content,” he said.

## Coming Events

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

**Butler Center Legacies & Lunch**, Noon to 1 p.m., Darragh Center, Main Library, 100 Rock St., Little Rock. Susan Young will present “Down in the Holler: A Lesson in Ozark Folk Speech.” Bring your own lunch.

Thursday, April 11, 2013

***Land, Deed, Probate and Court Records***, a genealogy class presented by David Bunton at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room at Pope County Library, 116 E. 3rd Street, Russellville. RSVP Kathy or Charity at 479-968-4368 or email [kfowler@popelibrary.org](mailto:kfowler@popelibrary.org)

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 11-13, 2013

**Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference**, downtown Helena-West Helena, Civil War theme is “Claiming Freedom.” Registration deadline was March 29—see what you can do.

Saturday, April 13, 2013

**Northwest Arkansas Family History Conference**, 8:30-4:00 LDS Church, 6738 Lynch’s Prairie Court, Springdale, Arkansas. For information call Diane Letsch at 479-466-4307. Website [www.gatheryourfamily.com](http://www.gatheryourfamily.com)

Sunday, April 14, 2013

**Pulaski County Historical Society**, “Dust, Sun, and Sweltering Heat: The Campaign to Capture Little Rock” by Mark Christ, Old State House, 300 W. Markham, Little Rock, 2:00 p.m. refreshments & 2:30 p.m. program.

## Coming Events continued

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 18-20, 2013

**Battle of Fayetteville, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Headquarters House, 118 Dickson St. Fayetteville; contact Tess Kidd at 479-521-2970 for information. Friday, April 19, Candlelight tour of Headquarters House grounds 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, 2013

**Battle of Poison Springs**, living history and re-enactments. For information call 501-627-6313.

Saturday, April 20, 2013

**Heritage Fair**, Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, opening at 9:00 a.m. on Old Courthouse lawn in Paragould and continuing 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Research Center, 212 W. Court Street. FREE.

Saturday, April 20, 2013

**Mountain Home Cemetery**, Mountain Home, Arkansas, 9:00-5:00, cemetery restoration workshop/project, led by Arkansas Historic Preservation; for information email [holly@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:holly@arkansasheritage.org) or call 501-324-9148.

Saturday and Sunday, April 20-21

**Civil War Living History Weekend** with NW 15<sup>th</sup> Ark Infantry at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. Call 479-846-2990 for information.

## Coming Events continued

Monday, April 22, 2013

**Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club**, Laman Library, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 7:00 p.m. Lynn Blanscet will speak about the Polio Epidemic.

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

**Civil War Roundtable**, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, I 430 & Cantrell Road, 7:00 p.m., “Seven Famous Words” by Dr. Paul Haynie, Harding University. Email [RMeadows@aaamissouri.com](mailto:RMeadows@aaamissouri.com) for information.

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

**Brown Bag Lunch**, Old State House Museum, Brian Irby will present “Jeff Davis, Alcohol and The Second Baptist Church Controversy of 1902”

Saturday, April 27, 2013

**Fort Lincoln Freedom Fest**, DeValls Bluff, living history, cannons, muskets, re-enactors. For information, contact Stacy Sawyer at 870-659-5652.

Through June 15, 2013

**Portraits in Gray: A Civil War Photography Collection**, Laman Library Exhibit Hall, North Little Rock, Arkansas, the private collection of David Vaughn of Atlanta; for information contact [Dan.Noble@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:Dan.Noble@lamanlibrary.org) or call 501-758-1720.

## National Genealogical Society Family History Conference May 8-11

The theme of the thirty-fifth NGS Family History Conference is *Building New Bridges*, and it will be held 8-11 May 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the LVH—Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. NGS varies the theme and geographic location of its conference annually and brings together thousands of genealogists and family historians to learn the latest in genealogical research. The online searchable program allows prospective conference attendees to review the full scope of more than forty lecture topics offered daily during the four-day conference in Las Vegas. An exhibit area with over one hundred exhibitors will be open and free to the public Wednesday through Saturday and will include the latest in genealogical software, online research providers, published sources, societies, and DNA testing sources.

A PDF version of the registration brochure is available at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info). The brochure includes information about lectures, sessions, speakers, luncheons, tours, pre-conference events, registration times and rates, and accessibility as well as general conference and exhibit hall specifics. Some examples of the diverse offerings of the NGS 2013 Family History Conference include DNA, ethnic research, technology, immigration, the law, migration, methodology, religion, Skillbuilding, the West, and woman.

The deadline for the early bird discount and ordering a print syllabus has passed. The NGS member price is \$230 for all four days, the non-NGS member price \$265, and only the flash drive syllabus will be available. Space is still available for all conference social events including the Tuesday bus tours, luncheons, and breakfasts.

### Breakfasts, Luncheons, and the NGS Banquet

Participating organizations sponsor several breakfasts and luncheons during the conference, and the NGS Banquet is an event not to be missed! Make your reservation by the deadline, 22 April, at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee\\_registration](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee_registration). Tickets for social events will not be sold on-site. Breakfasts are \$28; luncheons are \$32; and

## NGS Conference continued

the banquet is \$51. Menus are in the registration brochure at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2013\\_Conference\\_Registration\\_Brochure\\_20\\_November.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2013_Conference_Registration_Brochure_20_November.pdf).

### Las Vegas Area Tours

There's still time to sign up for three exciting Las Vegas area tours on Tuesday, 7 May. Tour tickets are available only until 22 April 2013.

**Hoover Dam and Ethel M. Chocolates Tour:** This six-hour tour allows participants to explore the rich history of the Hoover Dam, enjoy a buffet lunch, and tour a chocolate factory and botanical garden.

**Museum Tour:** Tour the 30-acre Clark County Museum and the National Atomic Testing Museum in this five-hour tour.

**Night Tour:** Experience the full brilliance of neon Las Vegas in a five-hour tour of the Las Vegas Strip and Downtown!

For more information, please see [Las Vegas Area Tours](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences_events/annual_conference/las_vegas_area_tours) at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences\\_events/annual\\_conference/las\\_vegas\\_area\\_tours](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences_events/annual_conference/las_vegas_area_tours).

### Add Items to an Existing Registration

To add meals to your current registration, log on at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>, click on My Account, select My Events, and then click to Add Sessions. To add pre-conference events and tours, click on My Account and then select Upcoming Events.

Ed. The Ancestry Insider whose blogs I sometimes copy for you here has become an [NGS 2013 Conference Official Blog](#):

## NGS Conference continued

[ger](#) . You can read him at <http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com>. Below is part of what he posted on 11 Mar 2013:

“I love national conferences. These attract some of the best lecturers, some of the most knowledgeable people in the business. Other aspects of the conference may be good, but come for the lectures.

During each session (class period) you can choose a class from nine tracks (themes)! Wednesday there are four sessions (including an opening keynote speaker). Thursday, Friday, and Saturday there are five sessions each day. I’ll try and talk more about offerings later. If you have a particular instructor you are interested in, check the [online conference program](#) or the [registration brochure](#).”

He is right. The benefit of these conferences is that you will learn so much from the lectures by the best presenters in the world that you can’t help but become a better, more efficient, and more successful genealogical researcher.

Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

## Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society Heritage Fair

The Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society will be holding their Heritage Fair on 20 April 2013 in Paragould, and admission is FREE.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with an Opening Ceremony on the Old Courthouse lawn in Paragould. The Colors will be presented by Danny Honnoll and the Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Presentations will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Research Center at 212 W. Court Street in Paragould.

9:30 a.m. “David Dodd—The Boy Martyr of the Confederacy” by Danny Honnoll

10:30 a.m. “The Last Hanging in Greene County” by Bob Branch

11:30 to 12:30 Lunch

12:30 p.m. “The NorthEast Arkansas Regional Archives” by Lisa Perry, Ph.D.

1:30 p.m. “The Harrisburg Museum” by Sylvia Harris.

2:30 p.m. “How to Utilize familysearch.com” by Lynda Stewart.



## Arkansas Historical Association 72nd Annual Conference April 11-13

The Delta Cultural Center will host the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association in downtown Helena-West Helena April 11-13.

The presentations will continue the Civil War theme of “Claiming Freedom” with a bonus session that focuses on other aspects of freedom. Other highlights include:

### **Keynote Addresses:**

*Friday*--Dr. James Downs (Connecticut College), “Dying to Be Free: The Health Conditions of the Newly Freed Slaves during the Civil War and Reconstruction”

*Saturday*--Dr. Story Matkin-Rawn (University of Central Arkansas), “We Made the South What it is: Arkansas and the Other Great Migration.”

### **Receptions:**

*Thursday*--Fort Curtis Reconstruction (350 Columbia St) hosted by the Delta Cultural Center and sponsored by Arkansas State University Heritage Sites

*Friday*--Community Room, Phillips Community College (1000 Campus Dr) sponsored by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

### **Banquet & Awards Presentations:**

*Friday*--Community Room, Phillips Community College.

(Continued on page 11)

## **AHA Conference** continued

### **Friday Tour:**

Tour of Civil War Helena--Mark Christ (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program) will guide a tour (by bus) to Fort Curtis Reconstruction, Batteries C and D, Freedom Park and the Confederate Cemetery. The tour provides an overview of Union occupation of Helena, the experiences of freedom seekers who came to Helena, the battle of Helena, and its aftermath.

### **Saturday Tour:**

Walk Through History: Cherry Street Historic District in Helena—Rachel Silva (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program) will lead a walking tour of Helena’s Cherry Street Commercial District. The district, which flourished from 1880-1935, replaced the flood-prone commercial district along the waterfront.

Local arrangements for the conference were organized by Cathy Cunningham, Community Development planner with Southern Bancorp and a trio from the Delta Cultural Center.

Ed. Twenty-one presentations are scheduled on Friday and Saturday, and every topic looks fascinating.

## A Heartwarming Story From the Arkansas State Auditor's Office

### Unclaimed Memories Mystery Solved

#### *Dear Brother, Part II*

Last week in our *Unclaimed Memories* series, we featured [a 142-year-old letter](#) written by Susan Smith of Conneautville, PA. The letter, in surprisingly good condition for its age, turned up in the Auditor's Unclaimed Property vault. Like so many unclaimed memories, there was no owner name associated with the box, and no clue inside as to how it wound up in Arkansas.

Titled "Dear Brother," this story of a young, widowed mother struggling to raise her two children and tend to the family farm in rural, 19<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania attracted the attention of the Crawford County, PA, Historical Society. Crawford County is home to Conneautville and neighboring Meadville, PA, both referred to in Susan's letter. Annette Lynch of the society emailed the Auditor's office with additional information about Susan's family:

"She was the widow of George W. Smith, who had died on 15 Sept. 1869, leaving Susan with two children - Flora E., and Charles A. In the 1870 census, Conneaut Township, Flora was 11, and Charles was 7, and marked as "idiotic." Susan was dealing with a fairly good-sized farm of 51 acres, all but 6-8 cleared, a barn 50 x 36", an orchard of 50 bearing trees and 100 young trees, and an additional 23 acres in the neighboring township. Susan did, indeed, petition the court for guardians for the children in January of 1871. She was writing to her brother Flavius Josephus Cooper, who had "gone west," first stopping in Illinois, and then Kansas."

The last sentence provided the Auditor of State's office with an important clue: The full name of Susan's brother. The unusual name "Flavius" caught our attention on another set of documents detailing a family history for a James Cooper, who settled in Philadelphia in 1686. Researching the family tree led us to a living descendant of

## From the State Auditor's Office continued

Flauvius Joseph Cooper, the “brother” in Susan’s letter. Our office contacted him in his hometown of Chanute, Kansas (not far from where his great-grandfather settled all those years ago), and presented him with the news that Arkansas Auditor of State was holding a letter addressed to his great-grandfather and written by his great-aunt Susan; as well as a family tree for his father’s family dating back to 1661. Mr. Cooper, now 64, will receive the original letter and family genealogy, while the Crawford County Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Society receive copies for their respective collections.



Susan died in 1872, about two years after she'd written the letter, at the age of 34. Her family will now have her letter and her memories back where they belong.

Another Unclaimed Memories mystery solved, and another family reunited with their past. Thank you for sharing our stories and helping the Auditor of State in the Great Arkansas Treasure Hunt!

Don't let your family memories go unclaimed. Search [www.auditor.ar.gov](http://www.auditor.ar.gov). Arkansas State Capitol, Room 230  
Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-6030

## New Genealogy Website from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has a new and improved Genealogy website. It includes a “[Genealogy Notebook](#)” which provides the history of the service, information on their library, research guides, records requests and more.

Specific items have been added to help people requesting records.

[Avoid Common Errors](#) - helps requestors avoid mistakes that could cost them extra time and money.

[Does My Request Qualify](#) -- ensures that requesters are able to easily identify which Genealogy Program service would be the most beneficial to them

[Research Guide](#) -- provides information pertaining to Arrival and Nationality records organized by date, and provides valuable information about Historical USCIS topics and events.

Besides explanations of all the different forms and files, a section called “Image Galleries” allows you to see what the different files and forms look like and what kind of information they contain. These files include Alien registrations, Naturalization certificate files, Registry Files which include much biographical information, and Visa Files.

Even if you don’t know which of these files are relevant to your immigrant ancestor, the website will tell you all about what these files are, what research value they have and how to request.

This web site will be especially useful if you have 20th century immigrants.

Ed. USCIS is the modern successor to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

## Meet new AGS board member Johnny Mann

I am retired from the retail business in south Texas. My family moved from Little Rock, where dad was a firefighter, to Brownsville in 1946, where and when I was born, to open a wholesale business. I am the only Texan in our family. After three years at Abilene Christian College, then graduating from UT at Austin I joined my father and two brothers in the family business. Due to my brothers' health issues we closed our business in 2006.

Our two children grew up in Brownsville and both graduated from Abilene Christian University. During the process of closing our business enterprise, Linda and I decided we would move from Brownsville and chose Texarkana, Texas, after looking at several alternatives. We made that move in 2007 while our children were in college. We both are very happy to live in Texarkana and to be involved members of Walnut Church of Christ. Our daughter currently works in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as a Speech and Language Therapist. Our son is receiving his Master's degree in History with a focus in Archives and Records Management from Western Washington University in March.

We became interested in genealogy in about 1980 after learning a lot of information about the Manns from my father's sister-in-law in Little Rock. After working on the history for about three years, we "paused" for life and children. In about 2005 we resumed the research. My family came to Arkansas from Georgia in about 1870, and they settled in Pulaski, Perry, and Garland Counties in Arkansas and also in Lamar County Texas. Linda's ancestors were all in Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota. (She is the only one who escaped the North.) We are researching both family lines.

Members of the Texarkana Genealogical Society and the National Genealogical Society, we were very excited to attend our first NGS conference in Charleston, South Carolina in 2011. The trip gave us an opportunity to do some significant research into my family in Carroll County, Georgia, and Blount County, Alabama. In 2012 we were able to do some research "on the ground" in Iowa and Minnesota into Linda's ancestors. Both trips generated lots of facts to process, but I believe I am more interested in the history than the lineage.



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### **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [susanb1996@aol.com](mailto:susanb1996@aol.com) –Thanks!

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

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