



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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AGS Ezine

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Johnny Mann, editor  
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!

Tom had decided to build a house for his family. When he was a young teenager, he had helped his father build their house, so he knew how to do it. Tom's friend, Paul, was also building a house. They both started construction at the same time and each Friday Tom would drive by Paul's house to see how it was coming. After about a month, Tom decided he should stop by and talk to Paul. You see, Paul's project was much further along. Paul's walls were up and the roof was almost finished. Tom had only framed up one wall. As he walked up to where Paul was working, he noticed many strange tools, so he asked Paul what each was. Paul said "well this one here is a table saw." Tom asked what it was for, so Paul asked Tom what he cut his lumber with. Paul was surprised when Tom said he used a hand saw. As they continued to talk, there was the nail gun instead of a hammer and the list went on and on.

What's in your tool box?

At every genealogy society meeting I attend, each seminar I go to, and every article I read I pick up another "tool." Working with good tools is great! I recommend attending as many events as you can afford (many are free). Do not be hesitant to ask questions and take good notes. When you get home, go over your notes and add at least one tool to your box. Most everyone is willing to share what they know.

So --- get out there and collect some tools.

## Inside this issue

Coming Events	3-5
Opportunities for Genealogical Education	6
New book offers writings of a country doctor	7-8
Mexican-American War Service Records of Arkansas Regiments	9-10
Book Review: The Unofficial Family Archivist	11-13
Arkansas Prior Birth Index Project	13
Slave records of Edgefield County South Carolina	14
NGS 2014 Conference update	15
Administrative Stuff	16

## Tidbits —

The **Jenkins Ferry 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** will be April 26-27, 2014. Friends of Jenkins Ferry is looking for descendants of soldiers/veterans of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry. Email [friendsofjenkinsferry@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjenkinsferry@gmail.com)

The Butler Center offers beginner's classes the second Monday of every month, 3:30 to 5:00 pm; no reservations are required. Participants will learn how to use online databases and city directories, as well as how to archive family documents. Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave. For more information contact the Butler Center at 501-320-5700.

Brick Walls—we hate having them and we love the feeling of accomplishment when we solve them. Maybe some of these articles posted on Upfront with NGS will help you solve your “brick Wall!”

[50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions](#) (Genealogy in Time)  
[Overcoming “Brick Wall” Problems](#) (Progenealogists, Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AG, FUGA)

[Brick Wall Breakthrough: Follow The Breadcrumbs On & Offline](#) (Archives.com, Claudia Breland)

[Using Reverse Genealogy to Overcome Brick Walls](#) (Family Tree Magazine via Upfront with NGS)

[Brick Wall Strategies for Dead-End Family Trees](#) (About.com, Kimberly Powell)

## Coming Events

Now through the end of 2013

**“In Loving Memory: Death & Mourning in Arkansas,”** exhibit of mourning customs, artifacts, clothing, death masks, photos, etc., Arkansas History Commission, 1 Capitol Mall, second floor, Monday-Saturday 8-4:30.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 6-8, 2013

**Reed’s Bridge Battlefield 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment,** Reed’s Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society at Jacksonville, Arkansas. For information contact Tommy Dupree at 501-766-1526, email [JBDAN111@aol.com](mailto:JBDAN111@aol.com) or visit website at [www.reedsbridgebattlefield.com](http://www.reedsbridgebattlefield.com)

Saturday, September 14, 2013

The 150th anniversary Battle of Ashley’s Mills will take place at the Scott Plantation in Scott, Arkansas on September 14, 2013. The gate will open at 9:30 at which time the Confederate Flag will be hoisted onto the flagpole. There will be a Living History from 10 am till 12:30 pm. For more info, contact Will Hardage at [hardagew@yahoo.com](mailto:hardagew@yahoo.com)

Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, 2013

**Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar,** Wyndham Hotel, 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 501-371-9000. Friday, 5-9 and Saturday 8-4. Mark Lowe will speak on War of 1812 ancestors, local militia records, Freedman marriage records, migration, early census, and Civil War ancestors. See page 6 here and visit <http://www.agsgenealogy.org> for more information.

## Coming Events continued

Monday, September 23, 2013

**Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club**, Laman Library, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 7:00 pm. George Mitchell, President of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, will be speaking about Arkansas Ancestry Certificates.

Monday, September 23, 2013

**Genealogy Roadshow** will air on PBS at 9:00 pm and on every Monday night after that through October 14.

Saturday, September 28, 2013

**2013 Village Genealogical Society Annual Workshop**, Coronado Center, 150 Ponderosa Lane, Hot Springs Village. Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL presenting *Let the Records Speak: learning DNA and Genetic Genealogy*. See page 6 here, call Jeanette Frahm at 501-922-9220 or go to <http://www.hsvgs.org>

Saturdays, October 5–19, 2013

Genealogy 101, Barbara Erdman, Instructor. Will be in room IS-100, National Park Community College, 101 College Dr., Hot Springs. Start researching your family tree. Learn how to fill out pedigree charts, where to look for documents, how to get copies— using the internet. Saturdays, 10 am–12 noon. 3 sessions \$59. To register, call 501-760-4223 or on line at <https://shortclass.npcc.edu>.

## Coming Events continued

May 7 through 10, 2014

**NGS 2014 Family History Conference**, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel located in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Conference highlights and contact information for conference hotels can be found in the Announcement Brochure, which can be downloaded at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014\\_Announcement\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf)

August 27 through 30, 2014

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. See the web site for more information, [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org).

## Two opportunities for genealogical education this month right here in Arkansas

Do you know if you have an ancestor who served in the War of 1812? Have you found an ancestor in local militia records? Have you thought of Freedmen's records as a source of marriage information? Have you gotten the most out of U.S. census records between 1790 and 1840? Do you know why your ancestors migrated across the South? Have you been able to pinpoint your ancestor's Civil War record? Do you understand what DNA has to do with genealogy?

If you answered no to any of these questions, you need to take advantage of two opportunities this month that will help you increase your knowledge and understanding of a variety of topics. Both the Arkansas Genealogical Society and the Village Genealogical Society will be holding seminars featuring well-respected and nationally known speakers to enlighten us. A good time is always in store at both these annual seminars.

On Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21, the knowledgeable and entertaining J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, will lecture for the Arkansas Genealogical Society at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock. On Friday he will talk about *Finding my War of 1812 Ancestor* and *Understanding Local Militia Records*. He will continue on Saturday, September 21, with *Finding Freedmen Marriage Records; Making Early Census Records Talk; Whiskey, Brandy and Southern Migration*; and *Locating Civil War Ancestors*. Mark always has interesting examples to inspire your research and show you how to use records. You don't want to miss him. You can find all the details and the seminar registration form at [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

The week following the AGS Seminar, the Village Genealogical Society will present its annual workshop on September 28 from 8:30 to 3:30 at the Coronado Center, 150 Ponderosa Lane, Hot Springs Village. The featured speaker will be Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL presenting *Let the Records Speak: Learning DNA and Genetic Genealogy*. Her topics will be "GATA GACC! DNA and Genetic Genealogy Today," "Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent," "Paternal Lines: Y-DNA," and "Maternal Lines: Using Mitochondrial DNA and X-DNA." You might want to visit her website at <http://debbiewayne.com/> For further information on the workshop, contact Jeanette Frahm at 501-922-9220 or [Nette4465@gmail.com](mailto:Nette4465@gmail.com) or view the VGS website at <http://www.hsvgs.org>. Contributed by Susan G. Boyle

## A new book and an invitation from Amanda Saar at the UAMS Library

The UAMS Library will host a book signing for *Fiat Flux, the Writings of Wilson R. Bachelor, Nineteenth Century Country Doctor and Philosopher* on Friday, September 6, from 4:30-6:30 pm, with remarks by Chancellor Dan Rahn, Dr. William Lindsey, and others at 5 pm. In addition to transcriptions of Dr. Bachelor's philosophical writings and his diary of medical cases, the book includes a foreword by Dr. Thomas Bruce, a letter from Senator Dale Bumpers (whose ancestors lived next door to Dr. Bachelor), an extensive introductory section and notes by Dr. Lindsey, and an afterword by Dr. Jonathan Wolfe.

A descendant of Dr. Bachelor donated the diary to the UAMS Library's Historical Research Center last year, and Library staff assisted with research for the book. *Fiat Flux*, published by the University of Arkansas Press, is an important addition to the historical record of how medicine was practiced in western Arkansas in the late 1800's.

Wilson R. Bachelor was a Tennessee native who moved with his family to Franklin County, Arkansas, in the 1870s. A country doctor and natural philosopher, Bachelor was impelled to chronicle his life from 1870-1902, documenting the family's move to Arkansas, their settling a farm in Franklin County, and Bachelor's medical practice.

Friday, September 6th  
meet  
**Dr. William Lindsey**  
Active Learning Center  
UAMS Library  
4:30 - 6:30pm

*Fiat Flux*  
The Writings of Wilson R. Bachelor  
Nineteenth-Century Country Doctor and Philosopher

Book signing  
Welcome by UAMS Chancellor, Dr. Dan Rahn  
Remarks by Dr. Tom Bruce, writer of the foreword  
A brief presentation about the writing of the book  
Reception following the remarks

The book may be purchased at the event, the UAMS Bookstore, or at  
[www.uapress.com/titles/sp13/lindsey.html](http://www.uapress.com/titles/sp13/lindsey.html)

**UAMS**  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

(continued on page 7)

## **A New Book** (continued)

Bachelor was an avid reader with wide-ranging interests in literature, science, nature, politics, and religion, and he became a self-professed free-thinker in the 1870s. He was driven by a concept he called “fiat flux,” an awareness of the “rapid flight of time” that motivated him to treat the people around him and the world itself as precious and fleeting. He wrote occasional pieces for a local newspaper, bringing his unusually enlightened perspectives to the subjects of women’s rights, capital punishment, the role of religion in politics, and the domination of the American political system by economic elite in the 1890s.

All members of the Arkansas Genealogy Society are invited to attend the book signing.

Amanda Saar, Head, Historical Research Center, UAMS Library, #586  
4301 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205, Phone: 501-686-6733 Fax: 501-296-1423

## Mexican-American War Service Records of Arkansas Regiments

We don't think about the Mexican War very often, but some of our ancestors volunteered to fight in that conflict. Fold3 recently added the service records of Arkansas regiments in the Mexican War plus the Mexican War Service Record Index to its website. These items joined the service records of Mississippi, the Mormon Battalion, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas, which were already online at the site.

The compiled military service record or CMSR that you can view on the site was created from the muster rolls, pay rolls, receipts and other documents that were created for each unit, so each soldier's file contains when and how much he was paid, where he had served, his rank, if he was promoted or given a furlough, if he was a casualty, and perhaps his physical description.

To learn if your Arkansas ancestor served in the Mexican War look at the Mexican War Service Record Index which will tell you his unit of service. The more than 200,000 index cards of volunteers are in alphabetical order by state and then by the soldiers' last name.

When you find your Arkansan in the index, his unit information will enable you to access his compiled military service record among the Arkansas service records. Fold3 provided the following example:

"When we search the index for [Nathaniel T. Gaines](#), we learn that he served in the Mounted Regiment of Arkansas Infantry, Company B. The index card also indicates that he enlisted as a sergeant and was promoted to lieutenant. We can then locate his CMSR within the Arkansas regiments. A card with information from the [Company Muster-in Roll](#) indicates he was 26 when he mustered in as a sergeant for one year on July 2, 1846, at Washington, Arkansas. His horse was valued at \$100 and equipment for the horse was valued at \$15.

Gaines was absent on furlough by order of Col. Yell on the muster roll for August 31, 1846. (Yell enrolled as a private

## Mexican-American War Service Records (continued)

but was promoted to colonel. He was killed in battle six months later at Buena Vista.) Sgt. Gaines was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on November 14, 1846, and \$4.68 3/4 was withheld from his pay for subsistence forage for his horse between Little Rock and Washington. His horse was "stolen by Mexicans at Saltillo on Jany. 12." He mustered out at Camargo, Mexico, on June 20, 1847."

While these details add to your understanding of your ancestor's war service, you can also look at the information for the whole unit to obtain the bigger picture of his experience. When the war ended in 1848 the southern boundary of the U.S. had been established. This may have had an impact on your ancestors as well.

Fold3 will continue to add service records for regiments from other states to this collection.

If you do not subscribe to Fold3 at home, you may find it available at your local library.

This article from Fold3, paraphrased by Susan Boyle

## Book Review by Bobbi King

*The Unofficial Family Archivist, A Guide to Creating and Maintaining Family Papers, Photographs, and Memorabilia* by Melissa Mannon. 247 pages.

The problem with being the unofficial family archivist is that eventually you become the official family archivist.

When I started doing genealogy, Dear Myrtle on AOL Genealogy Forum was my beacon for organizing my papers. To this day, I follow her instructions for organizing all my notes. At least I got that much right.

Now we have Family Archivist to start us out doing things right. It's the beginner who will benefit most from this book, but if you're a senior historian, there's something for you, too.

"Chapter One: Your Story." is for us, old-timers. Have we recorded our stories? When I was a kid, my father used to rake, pile up, and burn the autumn leaves in our back yard. I'd sit and watch the embers magically sparkle as night closed in. The closest my kids ever got to that experience was watching the artificial gas logs in my fireplace go dark when I flipped the electric switch.

We have life stories as remote from our children and grandchildren as our grandparents' stories were from us, but now, don't we relish and value the words our ancestors left behind, trivial to them at the time but so treasured by us now? This chapter will inspire us to tell our stories. Ms. Mannon offers ideas for getting us energized to finally get our own recordings finished.

Family Archivist focuses on the care of personal papers, photographs, and memorabilia. Ms. Mannon speaks to diaries, health records, and cookbooks, "...I write down a memory about when I served the food." She writes about the value of personal memorabilia, "...the value of this item is the memory it elicits of a special event...the comfort of being

## **Book Review** (continued)

with...the interest I had...the excitement I felt...” that expresses the reasons for keeping the ephemera of our lives. She counters the reasons for keeping the good stuff against the reasons for throwing stuff out. She helps us figure out the difference between the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Ms. Mannon goes on to coach us about the collection of personal papers, conserving damaged materials, and disaster planning.

“Within every home is a treasure trove of information” writes Ms. Mannon.

She’s going to help us take very good care of it.

## Arkansas Prior Birth Index Project

Many, if not most, of you have seen or used the Arkansas Prior Birth Index either in book form or on CD. Volunteers for AGS have been working on this index since 1999. This past spring indexers were down to the last few volumes to be entered and looking forward to concluding the project when a renovation of Vital Records office space displaced them for nearly four months while the employees there played musical offices as they tried to keep out of the fray and get their work done at the same time.

Now the renovation work is done, the place looks much better, and the employees are settled into their new (hopefully permanent) spaces. The volunteer indexers, of course, are the last to be resettled, and the volunteers' computer was misplaced and forgotten about after its many moves during the rehab. But it is found again and indexing will have resumed by the time you read this.

Eighteen volumes of 250 certificates each and nine volumes of 200 certificates remain to be entered from microfilm, because a box and volumes within a couple of other boxes have gone missing. That is a total of 6300 certificates that will complete the index to all the birth certificates filed by persons born in Arkansas before 1 February 1914 when state registration began. Such persons began filing certificates before 1920 and continued to do so until 1985. Is your parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent among them?

Many of these certificates contain helpful information that wasn't even asked for, such as a parent's birth, death or marriage date. Many of them were witnessed and signed by other relatives such as siblings, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

This article was contributed by Susan Boyle

## Slave Records of Edgefield County, South Carolina

The following from Dick Eastman posting of May 21, 2013

Black families with ancestors in Edgefield County, South Carolina, can now follow the lives of ancestors throughout the 19th century, thanks to a comprehensive collection of records from the Edgefield County Archives pertaining to the purchasing and selling of slaves. The award-winning work, *Slave Records of Edgefield County*, is Gloria Lucas' legacy, according to close friends and associates. Lucas died at age 84 last month.

The book, published by the Edgefield Historical Society, contains extractions from ledgers of estates, wills, inventories, appraisals, deed transfers, sheriff sales and other files that contain about 29,000 listings and more than 58,000 slave names. Many of the records provide gender, age, physical description, occupation and family relationships.

You can read the details in an article by Wesley Brown in The Augusta Chronicle at <http://goo.gl/HXW7u>. You may be able to find *Slave Records of Edgefield County* in a library near you by searching at <http://goo.gl/VYJaZ>.

## NGS 2014 Conference update

### The Latest News about the NGS 2014 Family History Conference

If you are planning to attend the NGS Family History Conference next year, both king and double bed rooms are still available at the Crowne Plaza and Omni Hotel. Details about each hotel, including restaurants, amenities, and rates, can be found at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/accommodations>. The Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau will be providing shuttle bus transportation from these two conference hotels and the Holiday Inn Express to the convention center throughout the day. Reservations are already sold out at the Marriott Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, and Holiday Inn Express Downtown, so make your plans as soon as possible. Two universities will be having their graduations the same weekend, so other hotel rooms in Richmond will be hard to find if you wait.

The conference **Announcement Brochure** is available at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014\\_Announcement\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf). The NGS 2014 Family History Conference website at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info) also has information about nearby restaurants and tours scheduled by Richmond Discovery Tours on Monday, 5 May, and Tuesday, 6 May 2014.

Sign up for the **conference blog** (<http://conferenceblog.ngsgenealogy.org/>) so you don't miss any of the announcements about the conference.

Conference highlights will be released beginning with the September issue of *What's Happening at the National Genealogical Society*. **Registration opens 1 December 2013**. For additional questions, contact [confer-  
ence@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org).

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### **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [doug44mann@gmail.com](mailto:doug44mann@gmail.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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