



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 8, No. 12, December 2013

Johnny Mann, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas

December is the month for friends and family, for snow and ice, for hot cider or chocolate, for giving and receiving, for — you fill in the rest!

The last Ezine for 2013 and what do I want to say? I could admonish you to organize and file the stuff you have collected over the past year. I could remind you to ask questions and take photos at the family gatherings. I could tell you to do what you already know needs to be done, but I think not.

Cherish the moment! Blend in and soak up. Make a memory. Cause a smile, maybe even an ear to ear grin. Become completely immersed in celebration. I am reminded of a saying about food I once heard. “It was so good, I ate all I could hold, and then just rubbed the rest all over me.”

Enjoy to the maximum!

Have a safe and happy holiday.

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!

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Tidbits –

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has received a \$274,000 grant to digitize 100,000 pages of state newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. Julia Marks Young, director of MDAH Archives and Records Services Division, says MDAH will partner with Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections on the project.

Registration for the NGS 2014 Family History Conference opens December 1, 2013. The event dates are May 7-10, 2014 in Richmond, Virginia. You can get the Registration Brochure by clicking [here](#).

As always, AGS values your comments and feedback. In order to serve our membership more efficiently, we have prepared a short AGS preference questionnaire. You can request a copy in PDF format to fill out and mail back by sending an Email to gobgob3@mindspring.com. Your suggestions and observations will help us improve our society's services to you. Appropriate comments will be passed along to your Board of Directors. Russell P. Baker, Editor. Feel free to email:

gobgob3@mindspring.com or AskAGS@agsgenealogy.org

Coming Events

December 4, 2013 noon

Hear the stories behind the stories when Ruth D. Shepherd talks about her book, *The Company We Keep: 50 Years of Arkansas Creating Just Communities*. Noon–1:00 p.m. at the Main Library, Darragh Center, 100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR.

December 6, 2013

Sandwiching in History program by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at noon for less than an hour in the Faucette-Cook Building, 421-425 Main St., North Little Rock. Bring your lunch.

December 9, 2013

Saline County Library presentation from 6:30 to 7:30 by Steve Purdue: *Rural Hill, Rural Dale & Lonsdale* in Western Saline County.

December 14, 2013

“Walks Through History” by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at 11:00 am at the Marked Tree Commercial Historic District in Poinsett County. Click [here](#) for more details.

February 6 through 8, 2014

Roots Tech 2014 will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This annual family history conference is hosted by FamilySearch. RootsTech is a unique global family history event where people

Coming Events continued

of all ages learn to discover and share their family stories and connections through technology. Registration is now open. Details may be found at <https://rootstech.org/>.

May 3, 2014

AGS 2014 Spring workshop will be held at the Lakewood Methodist Church. It will be a one day workshop and at this writing, the details have not been determined. Watch for more details in the January Ezine or check our website.

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

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.

IGRS Wills index launches online (Members-only)

The Members-only area of IrishAncestors.ie, the website of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, is continuing to expand at a pace. This month sees the launch online of the IGRS Irish Wills card index, an outstanding and valuable resource held by the Society's Library.

The IGRS Wills card index was an early attempt by IGRS members to build a database of genealogical abstracts from a variety of testamentary sources.

It holds up to 4,000 cards, and includes indexed details of Irish Prerogative Wills from the Betham Collection, as well as from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury; the Welply Wills at the Society of Genealogists, plus the Swanzy Collection at the IGRS Library. Other sources are not only wills deposited at the Library, or quoted in our manuscript collection, but also wills held in private collections quoted in The Irish Genealogist, as well as in other journals. Many regional wills & administrations are also included.

The full Index is now online for IGRS members only via the Libraries Holdings page (see Larger Collections - Spearman section). If you're not a member of the IGRS you won't be able to gain access to the Members-only area of IrishAncestors. Perhaps you'd like to consider becoming a member? You can find details of the many valuable benefits of [membership here](#).

ACHESON.	Robert.	d. 9.3.1776.
		p. 29.3.1776.
Dublin.	Gent.	
Wife.	Not named.	
Sisters.	JANE WARDLAW, ANNE COTTER, & PENBLOPE NICHOLSON.	
Nephews.	Thomas & Clements HIGINBOTHAM, and William COTTER.	
Nieces.	Jane BETTY, Hannah COTTER, Mary HIGINBOTHAM, Ann Thompson <u>H</u> , Penelope <u>H</u> , and Henrietta <u>H</u> .	
Gd. Nephew.	Robert Acheson THOMPSON.	
	Prerog. Will.	
	Swanzy Collection.	

Harvard to digitize colonial documents

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

Harvard University's archival and manuscript repositories house more than 45,000 collections, according to a 2010 survey, which include nearly 190,000 linear feet of boxes. (One linear foot is equivalent to about 2,000 items or pages.) Harvard's collections contain approximately 400 million items, from single pages to folders. There are 35 miles of manuscripts at Harvard, said University Librarian Robert Darnton, in one report, "much of it unprocessed." Sadly, many of these documents are never seen by historians, scholars, or genealogists. Now the University plans to make many of the documents easily available on the World Wide Web.

Of the material surveyed, about 6,900 linear feet – around 30 million pages – date from the 17th and 18th centuries. This includes 1,654 relevant collections at 12 Harvard repositories, according to Ceilyn M. Boyd, a Harvard Library senior project manager. Chief among the Harvard sites for these Colonial archives – about 60 percent of which are in English – are the Harvard University Archives, Houghton Library, and the law, business, medicine, and divinity Schools.

This effort will require years to complete but the process has already started. By December, librarians and archivists expect to conserve and digitize at least 109 of the relevant collections. About 33,000 images have been digitized so far from three Harvard repositories.

You can read a lot more about this project on an article by Corydon Ireland in the Harvard Gazette at <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2013/11/a-colonial-goldmine/>.

Ancestry.com Family History Wiki

Posted by Pam Velazquez on November 20, 2012 in Ancestry.com Site, Ancestry.com Wiki, Research

The Ancestry.com Family History Wiki is one of the best ways for you to discover more information about records and family history research. The Family History Wiki was developed to help genealogists find information they need, but also contribute, by editing and adding information. Our Family History Wiki is completely editable by the community and allows for others to add great information.

Find the Family History Wiki by hovering over the 'Learning Center' tab in the navigation bar at the top of the page and you should see the 'Family History Wiki' at the bottom of the drop down list.

Explore to Discover What is Available

The old adage in the family history community is, "You don't know what you don't know". Many of the issues deemed "brick walls" are not really problems due to the lack of records, it's usually that we don't have the right information or haven't found the resource we need to tap into yet. The Family History Wiki is a way to explore and further your knowledge of record types and locations to try and break through research problems you may be facing. When you first arrive at the Family History Wiki you will find a section entitled 'Explore The Wiki'. This is a great place to look if you want to get a sense of what is available and do some casual reading. In this section you can be taken directly to both The Source and The Red Book, which are the foundation for the information on the Family History Wiki.

Another great way to explore the Family History Wiki is to take a look at the 'Read the Featured Article' section. If you are not stopping by to look at anything specific, this is a good place to learn a little bit more about any given topic.

Start Searching

Start searching the Family History Wiki! If you are looking for a specific topic, use the search feature and type in the keywords you are trying to find information about. Most likely you'll be able to find an article that will help you out.

Ancestry.com Family History Wiki, (continued)

[The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy](#)

The source was first published in 1984 and continues to be the standard reference guidebook for genealogy. The current edition was published in 2006 and is written by expert genealogists.

The Source is organized by record type - so you can see everything having to do with census records, vitals records, military, etc. - it also has sections dedicated to specific types of research, like African-American, Hispanic, Colonial English, and more.

Each chapter is a link, which takes you to that chapter's page containing an overview and a left-hand sidebar with links to related information. Do make sure and read the overview and scroll down to read the content that is on each page as these articles are written by an expert in the field and has great information that could help you.

[The Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources](#)

The Red Book is another great resource and standard for American genealogy. If you need to know more about a city, town, state or county, this is the source to use. The Red Book can answer just about all of your questions about when certain states and counties started collecting records of any type.

The Red Book page is organized by location, first by state, and the layout is similar to that of The Source. An expert in that location's history and genealogy also writes each article. Each location page will give you a history of that place which can help you understand why you may not have records during a specific time, why your family moved there, etc. Learning and understanding more about migration patterns and the history of a state or county can really make a difference in your research.

Contribute!

Don't forget that the Family History Wiki is an editable document - something that you can add to if you have information that you think is valuable and that would help others.

- See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2013/11/20/ancestry-com-family-history-wiki-video#sthash.dbpW8fWx.dpuf>

What Will Happen to His Genealogical Collection?

By Patsy D. Herring | Bay County [Florida] Genealogical Society | Special to The News Herald
Published: Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 13:36 PM.

What will happen to his genealogical collection was the question asked by friends and family of Stephen Brown Simmons (1918 -2012). For more than half a century he had collected hundreds of family group sheets, pictures, letters, notes, documents, newspaper articles, birth, wedding, and death announcements, books and historical information on Washington County and its residents. It was apparent this valuable collection needed to be preserved and shared with the public. Genealogical friends and family organized a team of volunteers which included several from the Bay County Genealogical Society and the Vernon Historical Society. Work began earlier this year compiling this massive collection of records. This extensive collection will be made available for public use at the Vernon Historical Society in 2014.

Stephen Brown Simmons was born on Aug. 17, 1918, in Wausau to Alvah Weston Simmons and Emma Webb Skipper. He began his teaching career in 1939 at various small schools around the area where he taught all subjects. In 1943 he quit teaching to serve in WWII. When the war ended in 1945 he attended The University of Florida for three years and then continued his teaching career. He taught practically every student at Vernon High School from 1950 until 1980 when he retired. An eternal optimist, he loved life and a good conversation. His students nicknamed him “Smiley B.” for that trait.

He had numerous passions – family, friends, teaching, community and church leader. He loved the outdoors, photography, and fishing and lived his dream with his wife Evelyn Doris Jones, by building on Owens Pond (now called Hard Labor Creek Plantation) in the early 1970s. His other great passion, genealogy, began with the birth of his first child Peggy Jane Simmons in 1950 and continued the rest of his life. His collection of genealogy records of northern Florida residents, and especially those of Washington County, has given him a lasting legacy. He was well known and respected by his peers for his dedication to preserving these family histories, and much genealogical research and documentation is credited to him.

What Will Happen to His Genealogical Collection? (continued)

A lasting legacy, the Stephen Brown Simmons Genealogical Collection, has been entrusted to the Vernon Historical Society Museum, which is housed in the old Vernon High School directly across the hallway from where he taught for 30 years. The museum is at 2808 Yellow Jacket Drive in Vernon, and is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by special appointment. Their webpage and contact information can be found here. www.vernonflorida.org/

Several members of the volunteer team shared their journey of organizing, inventorying, scanning and preparing this collection of genealogy and fascinating history with the Bay County Genealogical Society on Saturday. Each month, with the exception of July and August, the Society presents historical and educational programs at the Bay County Library on the third Saturday at 1 p.m.

Book Review: Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation.

By Michael Nolden Henderson. Published by The Write Image. 2013. 196 pages.

When I first picked up this book and read the title, I thought, "Oh joy, another book about documentation. But you know, this book does look more interesting than most."

Turns out, it's a book not so much about documentation as about Michael Nolden Henderson's search for his ancestry.

Early in his research journey, Mr. Henderson paid a visit to his Cousin Leonor, a family relation he had never met but who would disclose a tantalizing piece of family history.

She told him, "There was this free woman of color who had a relationship with a Frenchman named Mathieu Devaux... she used to be a slave, but she bought her freedom....They had seven children, and they lived down in the French Quarter....she was a mulatto--you know, mixed race--but of course there are no pictures of her...Her name was Agnes."

So began Mr. Henderson's search for his French background, and the story behind a slave ancestor's purchase of her freedom. He read up on his hometown's (Algiers, Louisiana) history, methodically researched the records of French and Spanish colonial Louisiana, then recounted in this book how he built and authenticated the story of his Louisiana roots.

Mr. Henderson is a retired Naval officer whose ancestors were featured in a segment of the PBS series "History Detectives" called "The Galvez Papers." His research skills were honed during his distinguished naval career, which eventually led to his becoming the first African American in Georgia to be inducted into the National Society, Sons of the America Revolution. The chapter elected him president and vice-president, and he remains the only African American member.

Book Review: Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation (continued)

Don't let the word "documentation" put you off. This is a very good story, not a manual.

Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation is available from many genealogy bookstores as well as from Amazon.

Second Cousins and Removed Cousins: What's the Difference

by Amy Johnson Crow

Posted on October 16, 2013 from Archives.com blog

What is a first cousin once removed? (As the joke goes "Can a cousin, once removed, be returned?") Is it the same as a second cousin? The short answer is "No, they're not the same thing." Let's take a look at what those cousin terms mean and how you can figure them out in your family tree.

Degrees of "Cousin-ness"

Terms like "first cousin" and "second cousin" refer to what I call the degrees of "cousin-ness." It's an indication of how close the common ancestor is to them. The further back the first common ancestor is, the larger the number. First cousins are as close as you can be and still be cousins. It means that the closest ancestor that two people have in common is a grandparent. (If they were any more closely related, they would be siblings.) "Second cousins" means that the closest common ancestor is a great-grandparent. Third cousins, then, have a great-great-grandparent as their most recent common ancestor.

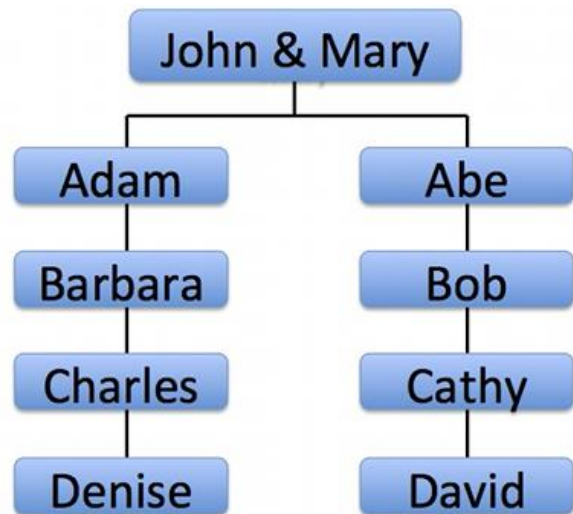
Removed Cousins

"Removed" refers to how many generations "different" two people are. Their most common ancestor might be the great-grandfather of one and the great-great-grandfather of the other. Since they're not equally distant from the common ancestor, "removed" is a way to show how far apart they are.

An Example

In the example below, John and Mary had two sons: Adam and Abe. Adam had a daughter named Barbara; Barbara had a son Charles; and Charles had a daughter Denise. Abe had a son named Bob; Bob had a daughter Cathy; and Cathy had a son David. Let's see how these people are related.

Second Cousins and Removed Cousins: What's the Difference (continued)



Barbara and Bob are first cousins. Their closest common ancestors are their grandparents (John and Mary). Barbara and Bob have the same distance from their closest common ancestors; no "removed" is necessary.

Charles and Cathy are second cousins. Their closest common ancestors are their great-grandparents (John and Mary). They, too, are the same distance away from their closest common ancestors; no "removed" is necessary.

Similarly, Denise and David are third cousins. Their closest common ancestors are their great-great-grandparents. They are the same distance apart, so we don't need a "removed."

Barbara and Cathy: Their closest ancestors (John and Mary) are Barbara's grandparents, but Cathy's great-grandparents. The one closest determines the "degree." In this case, Barbara is closest. She's a grandchild, so that makes the degree "first cousin." Cathy is one generation different (she's a great-grandchild), so we need to "remove" her once. Barbara and Cathy are first cousins, once removed.

Barbara and David are first cousins, twice removed. Barbara is still the closest, at grandchild, so it's still a first cousin. But David is two generations different, so he needs to be "removed" twice. Put it together and you have first cousins, twice removed.

What about Charles and David? The closest relationship to the common ancestors is Charles, as a great-grandchild. That makes the "degree" second cousins. But Charles and David are one generation different, so they need to be "removed" once. Their relationship is second cousins, once removed.

Second Cousins and Removed Cousins: What's the Difference (continued)

Working It Out With Your Cousins

If you want to calculate relationships between two people in your family tree, you can sketch out their descent from the common ancestors (like I did with John and Mary) and see where they are.

If you're more mathematically inclined, there is a formula you can use. Take the relationship of the closest ancestor and add 1 to the number of "greats" for the "degrees." For example, if the closest ancestor is a great-grandparent, the degree is second cousins. Add the number of "removed" as necessary.

Many genealogy software programs, such as Family Tree Maker, allow you to choose two people in a family tree and calculate their relationship. Seeing what these terms mean and how you can calculate the relationship yourself can help you understand those relationships better.

Amy Johnson Crow is a Genealogical Content Manager for Archives.com. She is a Certified Genealogist and blogs regularly for Roots & Branches, the official Archives.com blog. Amy has deep roots in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states and she has rarely been to a cemetery that she didn't like.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! doug44mann@gmail.com –Thanks!

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