



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 14 No. 1 January 2019

Jane A. Wilkerson, editor
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Coming Events

January 15, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Hillbilly Hellraisers*, Speaker Blake Perkins, 6 p.m., Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North St., Little Rock.

January 20, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

January 28, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Leave the Light On: A few ideas for Writing Family Histories*, speaker David Stricklin, Butler Center, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

February 2, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, Genealogy Lock-In, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

February 2, 2019

Black History Commission of Arkansas Event.

February 17, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

February 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Moving Wilder (Georgia Settlement) Cemetery*, speaker Joe Clements, Heritage Seekers, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

Ethics in a time of change

The following is republished from *The Legal Genealogist* blog, <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2019/01/06/ethics-in-a-time-of-change/>. Written by Judy G. Russell, it was originally published January 6, 2019.

DNA rights and wrongs

It's never easy living in a time of change.

Even when we're convinced, as *The Legal Genealogist* is convinced, that we'll come out on the other side stronger and more secure for the experience, going through the minefield of change is just plain hard.

And so it is today for all of us who are living through this sea change in our understanding of what is and isn't private information. Our reasonable expectation of privacy, in the language of the law¹, has changed — or, more accurately, it's been *forced* to change — almost overnight. Just a few short years ago, society might well have believed, about that adoption or donor-conception or before-the-wedding birth, that nobody would ever know about it. Today, with DNA testing exploding far beyond the confines of a few forward-thinking genealogists, we're coming to understand that it's only a matter of time before that family secret of the past is going to be discovered.

You see it in the headlines almost every day:

- ["How a DNA Testing Kit Revealed a Family Secret Hidden for 54 Years."](#)²
- ["A DNA test may have revealed my birth parents, but it couldn't help me find my family."](#)³
- ["'Your father's not your father': when DNA tests reveal more than you bargained for."](#)⁴
- ["Ask Amy: DNA test reveals shocking results."](#)⁵

Few if any of these discoveries are without some emotional pain. One test-taker put it this way: "I looked into a mirror and started crying. I've taken for granted my whole life that what I was looking at in the mirror was part my mother and part my dad. And now that half of that person I was looking at in the mirror, I didn't know who that was."⁶ Another wrote:

At first, I was thinking this is the coolest genetics story, my own personal genetics story. I wasn't particularly upset about it initially, until the rest of the family found out. Their reaction was different. Years of repressed memories and emotions uncorked and resulted in tumultuous times that have torn my nuclear family apart. My parents divorced. No one is talking to my dad. We're not anywhere close to being healed yet and I don't know how long it will take to put the pieces back together.⁷

No, it's not easy to be living in a time of change.

So how do we make this *easier*, even if it isn't and can't be *easy*?

Coming Events

March 1-2, 2019

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, Territorial Fair

March 17, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

March 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, TBA, speaker Phillip Snodgrass, Heritage Seekers, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

April 16, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series*, Speaker Phyllis Hodges, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North St., Little Rock.

April 21, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

April 22, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *DNA*, speaker Mike Engel, Genetic Genealogist, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

May 4, 2019

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Genealogical Symposium.

May 9-11, 2019

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, *Journey of Discovery*, St. Charles, Missouri.

May 19, 2019

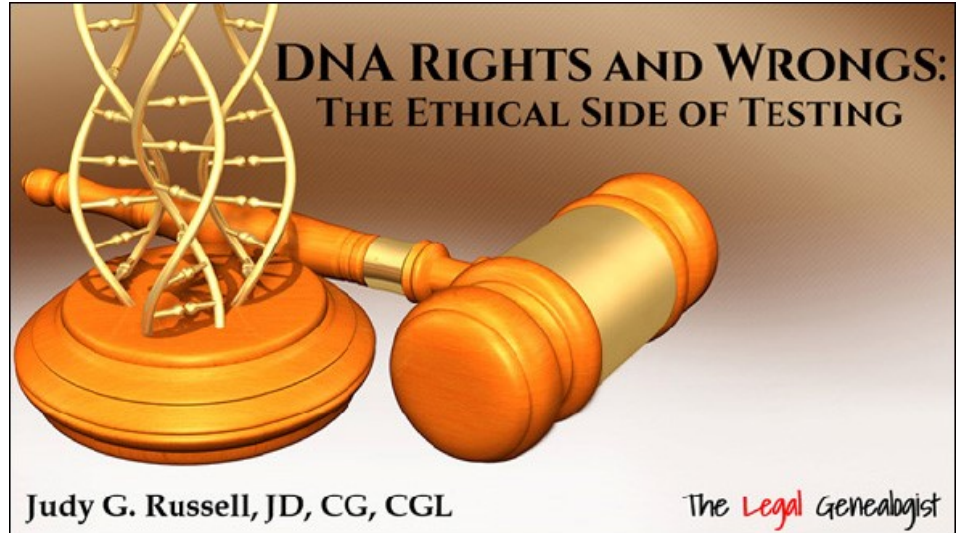
Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

May 20, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Camp Nelson Cemetery Restoration*, speaker R.D. Keever, Camp Nelson, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

The best advice we can give anybody is... ***know before you test***. Know the risks. Know what can be disclosed. Know what's right and what's wrong and what ethical guidelines are out there to help us make good decisions.

That's the whole notion behind the webinar I gave on Wednesday for [Legacy Family Tree Webinars: *DNA Rights and Wrongs: The Ethical Side of Testing*](#).⁸ It's free online through January 9th and available to subscribers after that.



The bottom line point of the webinar is that there are things we can do to make it easier to live through this time of change, by following the best practices and ethical guidelines of our field — the kinds of guidance we can get from:

- The [Genetic Genealogy Standards](#);
- The [Code of Ethics and Professional Practices](#) of the Association of Professional Genealogists;
- The [Genealogist's Code of Ethics](#) of the Board for Certification of Genealogists — and particularly the section "To protect people who provide DNA samples";
- The [Code of Conduct/Ethics](#) of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies; and
- The [Guidelines for Sharing Information with Others](#) of the National Genealogical Society.

No, it's never easy to be living in a time of change. We're on the cutting edge in using this 21st century technology of DNA testing to shed light on people who came before us. And any time you're on the cutting edge things are unsettling.

But the bottom line to me is this: I do believe, absolutely, that if we're careful and thoughtful and ethical in handling this technology in our research, perhaps 20 years from now people are going to look back on this time period and ask, "What in the world were you worried about?" This same point was made by Dani Shapiro, whose book *Inheritance* about her own discovery that she wasn't her father's biological child is due to be released on January 15th. She said: "We find ourselves in an interesting sliver of time. Secrets surrounding identity have existed since the start of humanity. The Old Testament is threaded through with them. People lived and died without ever knowing the truth of themselves. But now—because of the potent combination of DNA testing and the Internet—those secrets are tumbling out. At some point in the not-too-distant future, the very idea that such secrets of identity were ever kept will seem ludicrous."⁹

Coming Events

June 1, 2019

Black History Commission of Arkansas Event.

June 23, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

July 20, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, Genealogy Lock-In, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

July 21, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

August 3, 2019

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives Event

August 18, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

August 20, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series*, Speaker Mark Christ.

August 21-24, 2019

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Washington, D. C.

August 24, 2019

Obion County Library Genealogical Seminar, 9 a.m. Obion County Tennessee Library.

September 14, 2019

Arkansas State Archives Foodways Event.

October 24-26, 2019

RootsTech Conference will be held in London, England. For more information go to <https://www.rootstech.org/London?cid=bl-fsup-8055>

September 2-5, 2020

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Let's all work together, ethically, to sail through this sea change with as little pain as possible.

SOURCES

1. See *Katz v. United States*, 389 U.S. 347, 361 (1967) (Harlan, J., concurring).
2. Dani Shapiro, "[How a DNA Testing Kit Revealed a Family Secret Hidden for 54 Years](#)," *Time.com*, posted Jan 2019 <http://time.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
3. Randall Howe, "[A DNA test may have revealed my birth parents, but it couldn't help me find my family](#)," *Arizona Central*, online edition, posted 22 Dec 2018 (<https://www.azcentral.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
4. Elle Hunt, "['Your father's not your father': when DNA tests reveal more than you bargained for](#)," *The Guardian*, online edition, posted 18 Sep 2018 (<https://www.theguardian.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
5. Amy Dickinson, "[Ask Amy: DNA test reveals shocking results](#)," *Chicago Tribune*, online edition, posted 15 Feb 2018 (<https://www.chicagotribune.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
6. Sarah Zhang, "[When a DNA Test Shatters Your Identity](#)," *The Atlantic*, posted 17 July 2018 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
7. George Doe, "[With genetic testing, I gave my parents the gift of divorce](#)," *Vox.com*, posted 9 Sep 2014 (<https://www.vox.com/> : accessed 6 Jan 2019).
8. **Truth in blogging:** As a presenter for Legacy Family Tree Webinars, I am paid, and if you watch one of my webinars I do benefit.
9. Shapiro, "[How a DNA Testing Kit Revealed a Family Secret Hidden for 54 Years](#)," *Time.com*.

NEARA Seeks Volunteers

The Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives is seeking individuals to participate in Volunteer Day at the archives. Currently, volunteers are unfolding and processing court case files from the Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County Court Records Collection. The goal is to have those cases searchable in our database within the next year. Come and join the fun. For more information about volunteering, contact NEARA at northeast.archives@arkansas.gov or 870-878-6521.

Slave Ancestral Research

Written by Kenyatta D. Berry the following is republished from the *Genealogy Roadshow* website, <http://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/genealogy-tips/slave-research/>.

When beginning your slave ancestral research it is important to note that not all slaves took the names of their last owner. Names could have been changed from a previous owner, a family member, or for some other reason. African American genealogy research typically encounters the 1870 brick wall. The 1870 U.S. Federal Census was the first that African Americans were counted in after emancipation. Once you get back to 1870, you need to determine whether your ancestors were slaves or free.

If your ancestors were listed in the 1860 U.S. Census, they were more than likely free people of color. If they are not listed in the 1860 Census, then they were enslaved. The key to slave ancestral research is finding the last owner. To research your enslaved ancestors you must take two approaches. First, review the surname. Determine whether it is an unusual surname, such as Bentley, Ailes, Dwelle or Meeks, or a common one such as Berry. If it is a common name, then your path is a bit more complicated.

For very common surnames, the first approach is to review the [Freedman's Bureau records](#) for labor contracts. The Freedman's Bureau was established after slavery to help newly emancipated African Americans make the transition. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, usually referred to as simply the Freedmen's Bureau, was a U.S. federal government agency that aided distressed freedmen (freed slaves) during the Reconstruction era of the United States. The Freedmen's Bureau Bill, which established the Freedmen's Bureau on March 3, 1865, was initiated by President Abraham Lincoln and was intended to last for one year after the end of the Civil War.

The Freedmen's Bureau was an important agency of the early Reconstruction as it assisted freed men in the South. The Bureau was part of the United States Department of War. After emancipation, a number of African Americans entered into sharecropping agreements with their former masters. For example, my third great-grandfather Lewis Carter entered into a sharecropping agreement with his former master Dr. Taylor.

Once you have this information, the next step is to determine if this is truly their last master. To do that, check the [1860 U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedules](#) for the name of the white person on the labor contract. The 1860 Slave Schedule lists the number of slaves owned, age, race (black or mulatto) and sex. All slaves are listed under the names of their owners not by the slave's given name. For unusual surnames you need to review the whites in the county in 1870 with the same surname.

Once you have found all the whites in the county with the same name, check the 1860 Slave Schedule. If you are able to find a slave listed within the age range, sex and color of your ancestor then you are on the right track. When you have the name of the last owner, you can begin to research dual lines, the slaveholding family and your ancestral family. It is important to learn more about the slave holding family since, as property, slaves could have been given to other family members. These exchanges were sometimes documented in estate or family papers, which are available in courthouses and libraries

New Cemetery Book

**Thomas Cemetery:
North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas
Interments, Obituaries and Articles**

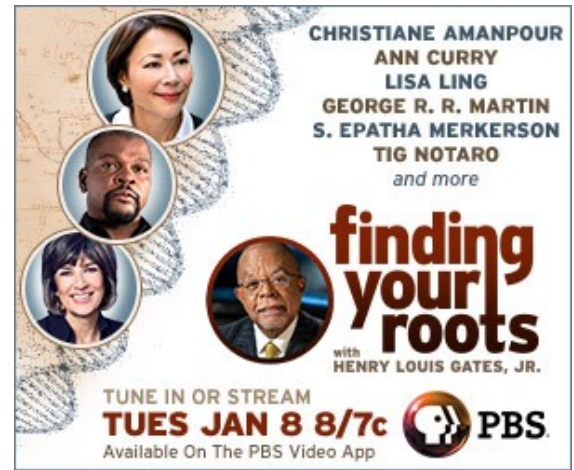


**\$25.00 plus \$3.50 extra for shipping
All money will be used to restore and preserve
Thomas Cemetery.**

To purchase contact Teresa Clark
at taclark12@comcast.net.

The Arkansas State Archives is interested in you!

The Arkansas State Archives and Friends of the Arkansas State Archives are looking for eager individuals to help indexing county and state records. Work is one sitting down, along side staff members, with gloves and masks provided. It takes place on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to noon in a conference room at the Collections Management Facility on North Street in Little Rock where parking is more easily available than at the Archives. Come and join the fun.



Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To agscontributions@gmail.com — Thanks!

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