



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 14 No. 8 August 2019

Jane A. Wilkerson, editor
Brandon Ryan, list manager

Coming Events

August 3, 2019

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives Event.

August 3, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club,
Research Day at the Butler Center,
Central Arkansas Library System,
100 Rock Street, Little Rock.

August 18, 2019

Genealogy 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 Ten-
nessee Library.

August 26, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club,
*Finding Identity with Genealogy in
Arkansas*, speaker Jeanne Rollberg,
6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presby-
terian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley
Drive, Little Rock.

September 12, 2019

Greene County Historical and Gene-
alogical Society, Program Meeting,
6 p.m., Greene County Library, Leg-
acy Room, Paragould.

September 14, 2019

Arkansas State Archives Foodways
Event.

Ancestry Tourism, Arkansas, and Sweden

Do Arkansas and Sweden have genealogy issues in common?

For about five years, AGS has promoted “ancestry tourism,” also called genealogy travel or roots tourism. Earlier and more recently, we have worked with the former Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and the former Department of Arkansas Heritage to explore this growing area that has been fueled by DNA testing and online research collections.

We already have evidence that genealogy tourists visit Arkansas for family reunions and as extensions of business trips, and use our Archives extensively.

Sweden and Arkansas

Sweden, too, is beginning to explore ways to enhance and capitalize upon growing genealogy tourism there, as both Ireland and Scotland have promoted roots tourism with measurable results. A Swedish university researcher is gathering information this year and next from those with Swedish heritage from America who have already traveled there.

Coming Events

September 23, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *As Much as the Water-How Steamboats Shaped Arkansas*, speaker Kay Lundgren, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

October 10, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

October 18-19, 2019

AGS Fall Conference, Benton Event Center, Benton, AR, Friday Speaker: TBA Saturday Speaker: Judy G. Russell

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>

November 14, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

November 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Publishing & Enjoying Your Genealogy Work*, speaker Hank Klein, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

December 12, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

September 2-5, 2020

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

It turns out that Sweden and Arkansas have some factors in common regarding genealogy tourism. One is that both entities have traditionally promoted nature and the outdoors as a primary draw for tourists. Though Arkansas and Sweden both have developed much heritage tourism and have serious interest in historic preservation, they have not focused on promoting genealogy travel per se in ways that could bring in more tourists.

Both locales' visitors also identify residents as friendly and helpful, characteristics that are not always present in denser geographic areas. (Sweden has about 10 million residents, and Arkansas has about 3 million.)

Anecdotal and preliminary research information indicates that in both Arkansas and Sweden, rural areas of the state could potentially benefit most from increases in travel. Genealogy tourists like visiting historic churches, schools, cemeteries, and local historic sites in the countryside that provide context for their ancestors' lives.

Retaining Authentic Atmosphere

Smaller cities and towns that like keeping the atmosphere personal often don't want to expand in ways that will commercialize their areas, making living there congested and difficult.

It appears that both for Sweden and Arkansas, increases in genealogy travel could be gained by using the historic resources already present, but promoting them with families and sophisticated, prepared travelers in mind. This will also mean promoting libraries, historical societies, museums and archives that contain research treasures.

If you are interested in videos on parts of Arkansas to explore in connection with genealogy and heritage tourism, here is a web site of interest: <http://garyjonesvideo.com/heritage--genealogy-tourism.html>

Was great-grandmother a Civil War nurse? Service Records Discovered

Genealogist Angela Walton-Raji told genealogy enthusiasts at the annual CALS Butler Center genealogy workshop July 20 in Little Rock about a record group she discovered that documents females who served in the Civil War, some of whom eventually served in Little Rock hospitals. Walton-Raji located the record group while researching African-American soldiers from Helena.

Record Group 94 at NARA (not digitized or online yet) in Washington, D.C. is where you can find pension applications for women who served as matrons, nurses, laundresses, and cooks. Nursing had previously been a male-only job because women were perceived to be too physically weak to do it, especially in war circumstances with makeshift hospitals or floating hospitals that were on the water only. (Walt Whitman, the poet, served as a nurse in the war.)

Some of the women who worked in the hospitals were caretakers who would help wounded soldiers by taking dictation of letters they wanted sent home. More than 20,000 carded service records for women have been found, the speaker said.

Originally from Fort Smith and an expert on Native American and African American genealogy, she said this little-known collection holds the keys to many people's genealogies about female ancestors, and that war service was the first known time when women were encouraged to work outside the home for pay. Many of the war service women applied for pensions that are in the record group, and the pension files hold critical family information because the women had to prove and describe their service and their family connections such as marriages. Many of the nurses had been born into slavery, but escaped that to serve in the war.

Heroines of the war like Harriet Tubman, who served as a nurse, cook, and spy, have received attention in history. Likewise, Dorothea Dix received recognition for spearheading progress in mental health care, but the little-known group of other females who served has been largely unexplored in detail, Walton-Raji said. She charged her audience members: "Find Their Untold Stories."

Arkansas and Its People

Because of a partnership with AGS and Legacy Family Tree Webinars, webinar members can learn about about how to research Arkansas families during the pre-territorial (1673-1819), territorial (1819-1836), and statehood (1836-present) eras. Record types, locations and examples are presented and discussed.

The webinar presenter is AGS board member and Archival Assistant at the Arkansas State Archives, Jane Wilkerson, Non-members of Legacy Family Tree Webinars may see previews whereas members will see the entire presentation. The company has 964 online classes in its genealogy education library and has subscriptions for ongoing viewing.

The screenshot shows a mobile browser view of the Legacy Family Tree Webinars website. The page title is "Arkansas and its People". The header includes the site logo, navigation links for "UPCOMING WEBINARS", "WEBINAR LIBRARY", "LEGACY VIDEOS", and "SHOP", and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and RSS. Below the header is a search bar with the text "Find webinars, presenters" and a search icon, along with "PLAYLIST" and "SIGN OUT" links. The main content area features a video player with a blue background and the text "ARKANSAS AND ITS PEOPLE". Below the video player are options to "Download Syllabus" and "Purchase Digital Download", and a Creative Commons license icon.

AR GENEALOGY SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY WRITING

WORKSHOPS

In partnership with UA Little Rock's Department of Rhetoric & Writing

All workshops are located at UA-Little Rock's Writing Center from 1-4:30 PM

*To register contact Sherry Rankins-Robertson at sjrobertson@ualr.edu
20 spots available in each workshop | \$10 AGS registration fee per workshop*

JUNE
29



Writing About Family Members, Places, and Events

This workshop will offer a writing activity about family members, places, or events, strategies for beginning the process of recording family stories, and practical tips to maintain daily writing practices. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

JULY
13



Celebrating Family and Food

This workshop will showcase writing about food-related memories and family celebrations. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop along with favorite family recipes!

AUG
17



Sharing Family History for Special Occasions

This workshop will teach participants to write stories that celebrate special occasions with family and friends such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

SEPT
07



Writing Obituaries

This workshop will demonstrate strategies for writing tributes that are interesting, engaging, and perhaps even humorous. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

OCT
05



Publishing Your Family History

This workshop will cover various kinds of cost effective digital publishing methods that can easily reach a large audience.



Arkansas Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Seminar Registration Form

October 18-19, 2019

**Benton Events Center
17322 I-30 North Benton, AR**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

email: _____

Registration Fee

A syllabus is guaranteed for those registered by September 17

_____ \$20 Friday Night Only

_____ \$40 Saturday Only (includes a box lunch)

_____ \$55 Friday & Saturday (includes Saturday's box lunch)

_____ \$25 (AGS Membership - New and Renewing)

_____ Total Enclosed

Make Check Payable to AGS and mail to:

AGS Fall Conference Registration

P O Box 26374

Little Rock AR 72221-6374

Administrative Stuff

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

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