



AGS Ezine

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Coming Events

November 12, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, Pen to Podium, *Arkansas Backstories: Quirks, Characters, and Curiosities of the Natural State*, Joe David Rice, Author and former Tourism Director, 6 p.m., Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North St., Little Rock.

November 14, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, *History of Greene County Christmas Parade and their Grand Marshalls*, Gina Jarrett, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

November 25, 2019

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

September 2-5, 2020

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

Announcing the AGS Early Arkansas Roots DNA Project!

by Thea Baker

You may have missed the 2019 Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar but we don't want you to miss this. Did you know that millions have done DNA testing, and their testing can help you build your family tree? Did you know that your testing is a way that you can help yourself discover your ancestors and also pay it forward to help others? Research projects enable cooperative participation.

Reproduced here are some introductory remarks from the seminar and pages that were included in the seminar syllabus. This is just the beginning. And what a good beginning it is as your Society moves forward to bring you the latest and best ways to help you succeed with your family history. We hope you will be as excited as we are and will join the project today! Keep watching the eZine for future information about the project.

Some Important Things You Need to Know

⇒ **DNA is the most powerful tool we have** for finding, confirming, or straightening out lineages. It can smash through brick walls and open up entirely new lines of research.

But it can't do it alone.

⇒ **DNA does not replace traditional paper trail research.** Nothing will ever replace the need to look for records about ancestors created in their own lifetimes. But if we don't know who those ancestors are, we can't very well look for them. So DNA can be like rocket fuel to take you to places you've never been before.

⇒ But it can also give us some **surprises**. There **can be unexpected results** about yourself or someone close to you. About 4% of testers find out something they didn't know previously.

⇒ **Half-relationships** between can be found that weren't known to exist. **Parental non-relationships** can be found. These can sometimes be troubling discoveries to persons who do not expect them.

⇒ But the same kinds of discoveries can also be made of ancestors several generations back, and help us craft an accurate family history. The lives of our ancestors could be just as complex as our own and the foundation of any family narrative is having factual information with which we can tell their story.

⇒ Most testers feel the benefit of DNA testing outweighs a possible small risk of discovering any sensitive information about themselves or anyone else.

So you might be asking yourself, which test should you choose, if you have not already done DNA testing. The answer is it depends on what you want to do with your test results besides joining the AGS Project.

The tests are comparable to each other so one isn't necessarily any better than the other among the BIG FOUR TESTING COMPANIES.

⇒ **Family Tree DNA (FTDNA)** — If it is merely to join the AGS project in the easiest possible way, then the tests at **FTDNA** are for you.

- Nothing to have to download and then upload.
- It has good tools and your matches can also be downloaded into a spreadsheet.
- It is also the **ONLY place** to test if you are a male wanting to do a **Y-DNA test**, or a female wanting to test your paternal line through a brother or a paternal uncle, a paternal 1C male, or great uncle, or grandfather.
- If you have an interest in joining a lineage society, some accept correlated Y-DNA as proof of lineage. For instance, there is a *National Society DAR DNA Project* at FTDNA.

⇒ **AncestryDNA** — If your goal is to gather all the cousins you possibly can into one big ol' cousin basket, then **AncestryDNA** is for you.

- It is the largest database of testers with 15 million at this time.
- But you will have to download your raw DNA and upload it to FTDNA to join the AGS project.
- AncestryDNA relies on Shared Matching and does not offer tools that other testing companies provide.
- You do not have to buy an Ancestry subscription to test there.

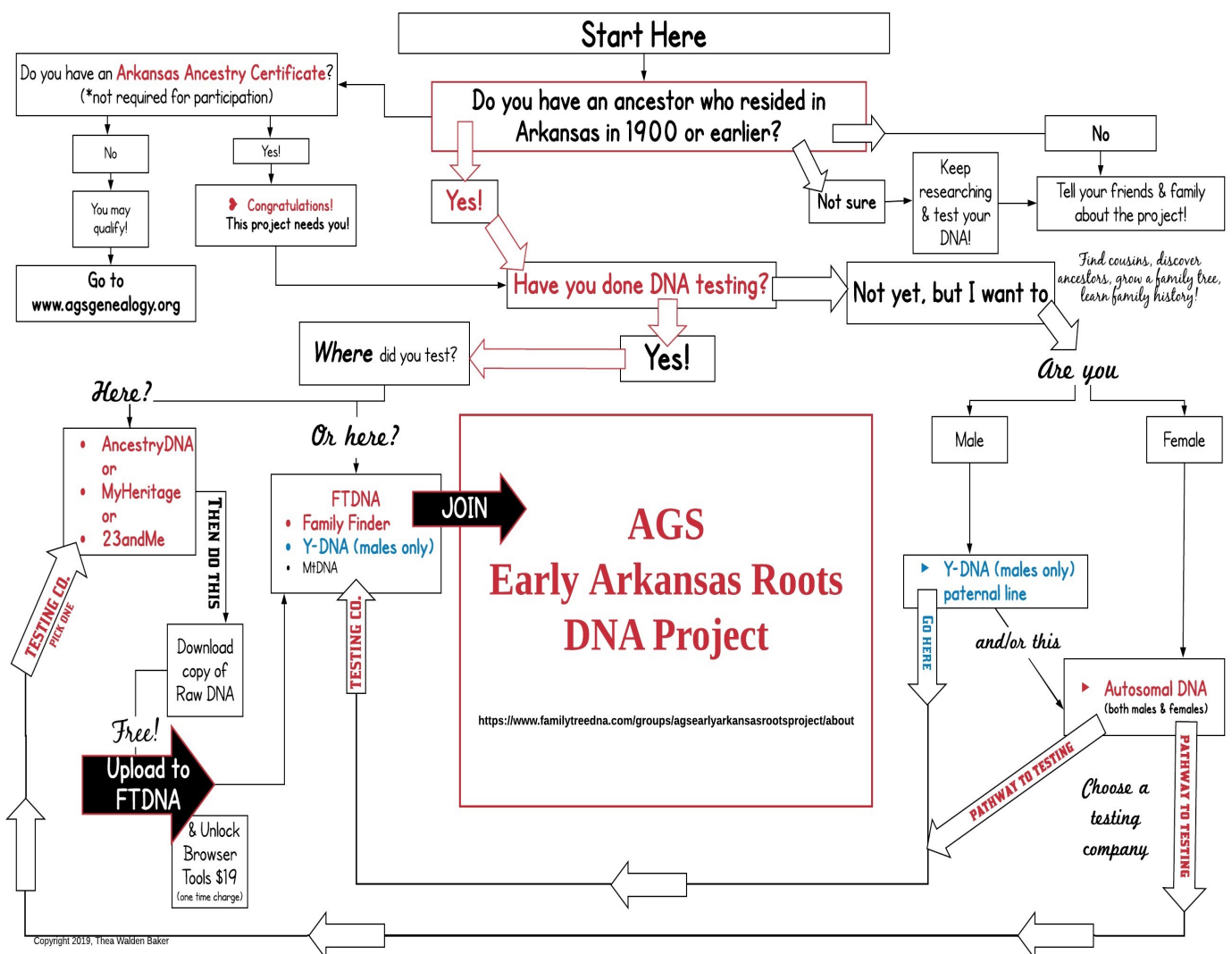
⇒ **23andMe** — If minority ethnicity is of special interest—let's say you have an oral family history of Native American ancestry somewhere back in time—then **23andMe** is known to be very good at picking up small segments of Native American DNA.

- It cannot tell you what tribe.
- 23andMe also has a chromosome browser where you can see what segments on which chromosomes that a particular ethnicity is found. This is especially useful if you're wanting to map back to a particular ancestor. But it has the smallest database of testers so you will have the fewest cousin matches.
- To join the AGS project you will have to download a copy of your raw data and upload it to FTDNA. 23andMe has recently introduced a partnering project with FamilySearch that incorporates DNA-matched trees.

⇒ **MyHeritage** — Has a large database that includes many testers from England, Ireland, and Australia. In addition to your Arkansas ancestors, if you have a line that immigrated recently or, say, in the last 150 years, then you may want to test there.

- MyHeritage uses the same lab as FTDNA and, like FTDNA, they also accept uploads of autosomal DNA from other testing companies, which is an easy way to fish in an extra pond.
- But to join the AGS project you have to download your raw DNA from MyHeritage and upload it to FTDNA.

- ⇒ You may certainly test other family members to get them into the AGS Project, as long as they provide their consent and you inform them that sometimes unexpected results turn up.
- ⇒ Unfortunately, I cannot provide personal analysis of all your DNA results or tell you exactly how each of your matches connects to you, but as we grow a database of members in the *AGS Early Arkansas Roots Project*, I will help you learn how to find what members match you in the project. Watch for upcoming articles.
- ⇒ You do not have to be an AGS member to join the project, but we hope you will want to join, if you are not already a member. There will be future articles in the *Arkansas Family Historian* about the project that you will not want to miss.
- ⇒ And from time to time there will be information in the free *eZine* that is published monthly. We have just about 1,000 subscribers to that publication and ostensibly most if not all have some heritage to Arkansas. You can see the *potential that you might connect* to some or several others. You never know where the link will be found that connects you to an ancestor that maybe you have struggled with or one that remains yet to be discovered.
- ⇒ As for safeguarding your privacy, FTDNA requires project administrators to sign and adhere to company privacy policies and the GDPR (General Data Privacy Regulations). Limited default permissions are given to administrators upon joining the project. The Terms of Service outline your protections.



Getting Started with the AGS Early Arkansas Roots DNA Project

WHY You Should Join!

- ⇒ Learn how your DNA connects you to others with Early Arkansas Roots.
- ⇒ Find cousins who may be able to help you connect to your Early Arkansas Roots or expand your knowledge of shared ancestry.
- ⇒ Establish, confirm, or correct a documentary trail by correlating DNA with related descendants of an early Arkansas ancestor.
- ⇒ Facilitate an application for an Arkansas Ancestry Certificate:
 - **COLONIAL** – AN ANCESTOR IN RESIDENCE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1804.
 - **TERRITORIAL** – AN ANCESTOR IN RESIDENCE BEFORE JUNE 15, 1836. ☐ ANTEBELLUM – AN ANCESTOR IN RESIDENCE BEFORE MAY 6, 1861.
 - **CIVIL WAR ANCESTRY** – AN ANCESTOR WHO SERVED BETWEEN 1861 TO 1865 IN A CONFEDERATE OR UNION UNIT, OR APPLIED FOR AN ARKANSAS CONFEDERATE PENSION, OR A WIDOW WHO APPLIED FOR A CONFEDERATE PENSION, OR WIDOW WHO APPLIED FOR A U.S. PENSION WHILE LIVING IN ARKANSAS.
 - **NINETEENTH CENTURY** – AN ANCESTOR IN RESIDENCE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1900.

For more information about the Ancestry Certificate Program, go to <http://agsgenealogy.org/ancestrycert/default.html>

HOW to Join

If you have already tested directly at Family Tree DNA, or uploaded a kit there, there are three ways to join the AGS Project.

1. Google AGS Early Arkansas DNA Roots.

- Click on AGS Early Arkansas Roots DNA Project – Overview.
- Click the **JOIN** button on the banner. • In the pop-up box select the right side option, “**If you have a kit please sign in here.**” (IF YOU HAVE NOT TESTED AND WANT TO BUY A KIT, SELECT THE LEFT SIDE OPTION.)
- **Sign in** to your kit (Enter your Kit Number and Password in the boxes).
- On the next page, click the gold JOIN button. You are now part of the Project.
- Your Account Settings page will appear with Group Project Profile blue Opt in to Sharing button already selected. Do not change this setting.
- You may log out.

2. You can join the Project by copying and pasting the following address into your browser:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/AGSEarlyArkansasRootsProject>

- Click the **JOIN** button on the banner and follow the steps above.

3. You can join the Project from your FTDNA Dashboard.

- Go to <https://www.familytreedna.com/sign-in>.
- Sign in as usual to your kit (Enter Kit Number and Password).
- Hover over **myProjects** at the top, then click **Join A Project**.
- Scroll down to the **Search by Surname** box.
- Change the “Equals” drop-down box to **“Contains.”**
- Enter **AGS** or **AGS Early Arkansas Roots**.
- Select from the **Matching Projects** list.
- Click on the **JOIN** button.

Downloading Raw Data from a Testing Site to Upload to FTDNA

If you tested at **AncestryDNA**, **MyHeritage**, or **23andMe**, you will first need to download a copy of your raw data from that testing site to your computer, and then upload it to **FTDNA**.

⇒Read about Autosomal Transfers to FTDNA.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/imports/transfer-autosomal-ancestry/familytree-dna-family-finder-transfer-program/>

To download a copy of your raw DNA, follow instructions at your testing site:

IMPORTANT: AFTER DOWNLOADING YOUR RAW DATA DO NOT UNZIP OR OPEN IT BEFORE UPLOADING TO FTDNA.

AncestryDNA – <https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Downloading-AncestryDNA-RawData>. Follow instructions. You will receive an email link.

23andMe – Navigate directly to <https://you.23andme.com/tools/data/>. Click on the blue download link. Scroll down and read the “Request your raw data download,” put a check mark in the box, and click the blue **Submit request** button. You will receive an email link.

MyHeritage – Sign in to your kit. From the DNA drop-down list, select “Manage DNA kits.” Click on the three dots on the far right side beside the name on the kit and select “Download kit.” Click the pink “Continue” button. Read the informed consent, check mark the box, and click on the pink “Continue” button. You will receive an email link.

Thanks for participating in the AGS Early Arkansas Roots DNA Project!

DNA linked to finding Serial Killer in Greene County



The Honorable Judge Dan Stidham presented on how a serial killer was found buried in the Shiloh cemetery during the October, meeting of the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Judge Stidham signed the warrant to exhume the killers body. This hunt for the serial killer included state police from South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas and all were present as the warrant was being issued along with local coroner Dick Pace and a local funeral director along with a special team from the FBI that specialize in taking DNA on September 27, 2018. Judge Stidman was notified that it was a positive match on October 1, 2018. Stidham shared some of his knowledge of “serial killers” and also gave his personal opinion on the Memphis 3 of which he was the defense attorney.

If you would like to attend the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society programs, the are held the second Thursday of each month in the Legacy Room of the Greene County Library in Paragould.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To agscontributions@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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