



# Village Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 2

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

June 2008

## VGS General Meeting:

The Coronado Center, 2 p.m.  
First Thursday of each month

## VGS Breakfast Meeting:

McAuley Center, 8:30 a.m.  
Third Thursday of each month  
(September to June)

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## VGS Programs

### June 5, 2008 -- "Field Trip to the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives"

Dr. Wendy Richter, Director of the Arkansas History Commission, will give us a guided tour of the facility and an introduction to the records housed there.

To carpool be at Cranford's parking lot outside the East Gate by 9 a.m. We are requesting that those riding, plan to pay the driver \$4 for car expenses.

## Announcements

### Field Trip to the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives

June 5, 2008

See VGS Programs for details

### VGS Picnic October 16, 2008

Tentative date

Bring your driver's license, as identification is required for admittance to the building.

The tour will start about 10 a.m. Lunch can either be at the cafeteria, which we've heard doesn't have too many choices, or bring a bag lunch. After lunch, we plan to do research. If you have not already indicated you want participate in a carpool, please let Marcia Clark know at 915-9024.

The records housed there include U.S. census records, manuscripts, newspapers, state government records, land records, county records, photographs, military records, maps, books and pamphlets, church and synagogue records, and cemetery records. The primary focus is Arkansas records.

### September 4, 2008 -- "Documentation and Citation"

Marilyn Mertens, a member of VGS and retired political science

## VGS Officers:

President ..... Valerie B. Hartnett  
V.P. Programs ..... Marcia Clark  
Treasurer..... Marlene Wilson  
Secretary ..... Judy Prestridge  
V.P. Membership..... Doris Lenox  
Librarian..... Judy Robbins  
Historian ..... Joy Stefan

### Board of Directors:

Newsletter Editor..... Mitzi Hunter  
Assistant Editor..... Barbara Baker  
Member Resources... Paul Harkins  
Past President..... Jeanette Frahm  
Webmaster..... Larry Smith

professor, will be presenting this program.

"Documentation" is the act of, or instance of, authenticating documents. It is also the provision of footnotes, appendices, or addenda referring to or containing documentary evidence.

"Citation" is to quote by way of example, authority, or proof; to bring forward or call to another's attention especially as an example, proof, or precedent.

In other words, documentation and citation are noting the where, when, what, why, and who of a document.

Knowing how to do this is very important, though not as exciting as finding the document!!!

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**October 2, 2008 -- "Did They Come in Ships? Finding and Using Immigration Records"**

Finding the record of an immigrant's voyage to America can be a challenge. Susan Boyle's talk may make the job easier. She spoke on this topic at the November 2005 VGS meeting. However, she says many passenger indexes have become available in the last few years. Also, VGS has many members who have joined since then.

In order to find someone in the passenger records, one needs the full name of the person, their probable age, and a probable date of immigration. Knowing the names of family members or neighbors with whom the person may have come can also be very helpful.

Susan lives in Little Rock and has been pursuing her family's history for over 20 years. Her ancestors include, on her father's side, Dutch and English colonists who came to this country in the 17th century and Germans who came in the 18th century; and, on her mother's side, ancestors who came from Ireland in the 1860's and England in the 1870's.

**November 6, 2008 -- "Document and Photo Preservation"**

Our speaker will be Robert A. Edwards of Benton, Arkansas. He will be speaking on this subject from experience, his house having been flooded and many of his documents damaged.

He is a Louisiana native who retired in January from his position as manager of technical operations for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where he supervised 30 people who maintained the electronic equipment and the computers the airline flight controllers used.

**December 4, 2008 -- "Christmas Party: Show and Tell"**

Be thinking about the research you have done this year. Maybe you have found your Civil War or Revolutionary War ancestor. Maybe you have located and come into possession of some family photographs or letters that you can show. Maybe you have completed or are working on a family history book that you would like to share. We would like to hear about your year!

Festive food and drinks will also be served, and we need you all to make the party happen!!!

We on the board appreciate all your ideas for programs and speakers. We also appreciate very much the members who continue to volunteer to present programs. Our Society's existence is dependent on all the members who contribute so much of their time and energy!! Thank you so much!!

*Marcia Clark, V.P. Programs*

**From the President**

As I look back over the past year, September 2007 to June 2008, the thought that comes to mind is that VGS is a strong genealogical society that continues to grow with active members truly interested in genealogy.

After our June meeting trip to the Arkansas History Commission, our next meeting will be in September. Summer vacation will be here, and I'm looking forward to it! Even though we are retired we still need a vacation. At least I certainly do! The word vacation is derived from the word "vacate" which means to leave, to get away from the routine, to recuperate, to renew. I think this idea can apply to us retirees and to our genealogy work also.

It's good for us to get away from the routine, away from our com-

puters, and our telephones! It's wonderful if we can visit the libraries and family history centers and take some small trips. If we are going to family reunions or visiting family, let's relax, be observant, and enjoy the time with family. Talk to everyone, especially the older people. Remember the older relatives might have the 'key' to our brick wall. Pay attention to the food that is served, maybe, that 'dish' is a family recipe. And who knows, we might find out that we have German or Italian or some other nationality in our lineage.

Whenever we have a chance to visit the part of the country where our family has its roots, we should save time for a visit to the local library, historical museum, and cemetery. While in the local library, check out the volumes on the shelves and the card file or the online index, and if this is a return visit, be sure to remember to ask the librarian what is new! We may have missed something the last time we were there. Also remember to enjoy the scenery along the way and take time to smell the roses. There will be time in the winter months to continue our genealogical research and to continue inputting all that data we have collected.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall and hope that you all have a safe and happy summer.

*Valerie B. Hartnett*

**Midwest Genealogy Center**

The Mid-Continent Public Library's Genealogy and Local History Branch in Independence, Missouri is a world class genealogy center. It attracts genealogists from all over the country. However, the Genealogy and Local History Branch has outgrown the available room and a new \$8 million building

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is now under construction. The new building is now scheduled to open June 2, 2008 [date updated -editor].

A new video now describes many services of the Mid-Continent Public Library's Genealogy and Local History Branch, interviews a number of patrons and describes the new building. If you are thinking about visiting the Mid-Continent Public Library or if you are not familiar with this great facility, you will want to see this video.

*Eastman's Online Gene. Newsletter  
October 23, 2007*

Holdings will offer extensive microfilm and microfiche sources, including U. S. census records, Civil War histories, Native American records, biographical archives and Black family history records, and a large variety of state records for Missouri and other states. These include tax records, penitentiary records, military service records, passenger lists, records of antebellum southern plantations, genealogical periodicals, 60,000 titles of family genealogies, local and state histories and other vital records.

*Simple Family Trees  
Feb. 1, 2008*

Independence is a few miles east of Kansas City, MO. At 50,000 square feet of space the Center will become the "largest free-standing genealogy library in the country." For more information and to view the video go to (*link\**):

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm>

For a sneak preview video, go to:  
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/insider/>

### A Successful DNA Story

Where oh where were you born, John Leonard Shelly. No one in our family knew for sure. The family bible told us when but not where and no other records could be

found. The family historians reported that he was born in Derbyshire, England and came to this country as a young lad in his late teens and settled in Southeastern PA. His children, with one exception, told the census takers he was born in Pennsylvania. Who was right? John Shelly was my great grandfather.

On a Rootsweb.com message board, I found a Steve Shelly, who had posted a number of entries over the years. His ancestors were Mennonites from SE PA, who had emigrated from the Palatine area of Germany. I contacted him to see, first of all, how far back he could trace his paternal line and would he be interested in taking a DNA analysis, provided the line went back at least 10 well sourced generations. His answers were affirmative.

There are a number of DNA testing services. I chose dnaAncestry at a cost of \$300 for two, 33 marker tests. When the results came back, we matched on 32 out of the 33 markers. Walla!! This meant that there was an ancestor match within nine generations and approximately 225 years ago. That would be about the late 1700s or the third generation after Abraham Schelle (later changed to Shelly) came to America.

So what did we prove? It proved that my ancestors were German and not English and that the likelihood of my being a descendant from a Mennonite family were very good. What it did not do, was to reveal how I might be related to Steve. The DNA test also demolished a brick wall that had been built many years ago.

*Submitted by Glenn Shelley*

Glenn suggested the following information:

### You've Had DNA Tests. Now What?

*from George G. Morgan*

Having your Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA tested is a first step towards using a new toolkit in your genealogical research. It's something new, just as using the Internet was twelve to fifteen years ago. Don't be overwhelmed.

Dr. Blaine Bettinger, also known as the "Genetic Genealogist," is there to help you learn how to use your test results and apply them to your research. His blog helps translate a scientific topic into understandable terminology for "the rest of us." He also has produced a 28-page book PDF file titled "I Have the Results of My Genetic Genealogy Test, Now What?" that helps those of us who are just beginning our genetic quest understand it all. The file is available at the Genetic Genealogies blog. His explanation is one of the best and most understandable for the layman. You will want to add this to your reading list if you are exploring your genetic genealogical connections.

*George G. Morgan  
Ancestry Weekly Journal  
May 12, 2008*

Download free 28-page eBook: "I Have The Results of My Genetic Genealogy Test, Now What?"

<http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com/?sssdmh-dm13.166789>

### FamilySearch Labs

Be sure to check out the FamilySearch Labs website <http://labs.familysearch.org/>. They are continuing to add new records all the time. Click on Records Search to see a list of records available. In the 1900 census index, you can see the family at a glance, spouse and children, or parents of children. A very handy "copy to clipboard" link lets you copy a record and paste it in your notes.

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### Passport Applications

Ancestry.com has added passport applications dating from 1795 to 1925, taken from microfilm in National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) record group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

*Genealogy Insider*  
By Diane Haddad  
December 4, 2007.

Be sure to go back to your favorite genealogy websites and search again. Many websites are continually adding new information.

### Arkansas Cemetery Indexing Project

The Medlock and Glazier Peau Cemeteries in Garland County have been photographed and continue to be uploaded on FindAGrave.com and ArkansasGravestones.org. Volunteers are also helping to plot the cemeteries. Everyone is encouraged to complete their assignments. Joy Stefan is the coordinator for the project, and is doing a great job.

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project but have not yet signed up, notify Joy Stefan at [joybob1969@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joybob1969@sbcglobal.net).

### In Remembrance

**Deller Scott Hardwick**, 91, of Hot Springs, died Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at home. Born January 3, 1917 in Bessemer, Alabama to Romie Rufus and Arlevie Cofer Scott. She was predeceased by her husband, James T. Hardwick.

Deller was a founding member of the Village Genealogical Society.

**Janice "Jan" Kendrick**, age 74, of Hot Springs Village, Ark., died April 2, 2008. Mrs. Kendrick was

born in Clarinda, Iowa, on Sept. 15, 1933, the daughter of the late C.R. (Bill) Kelley and Rae Higgins Kelley. Mrs. Kendrick married Darwin Kendrick of Villisca, Iowa, on March 9, 1952. Interment was in the Memory Cemetery in New Market, Iowa.

Janice was a member of VGS for several years.

### VGS Librarian

Judy Robbins has ordered the *Discovering Family History* magazine for the VGS Library. The current subscriptions include the *Family Tree Magazine* and the *Family Chronicles* magazine. These are located in the Coronado Center Library in the magazine section.

A free download of the new magazine is available at (*link\**): <http://www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com/freepreview.htm>

Older magazines are in a binder behind the VGS Computer.

### Looking Back

#### 20 Years Ago – Jan to Mar 1988

The VGS was formed with 60 founding members. Bobbie Moffat was one of the first directors. Membership meetings were held from 3-5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month except January, July and August. Two of the first speakers were Adrienne Jamieson of Dallas who told of the basic genealogical resources at the Dallas Public Library, and Wendy Richter of the AR History Commission who spoke on their genealogical holdings.

#### 15 Years Ago – Jan to Mar 1993

The Society had 38 members. The VGS, along with the Melting Pot in Hot Springs, sponsored an all day seminar with William Dollarhide as the guest speaker. His topics included Managing a Genealogical Project, Finding the place, Using

Deed Records, and Census Records – Look Again.

#### 10 Years Ago – Jan to Mar 1998

Membership had grown to 125 members. Member Sara Stern created a book of terms useful in genealogical research; copies sold for \$10. Handbooks for VGS officers were created. Quote from newsletter: Professional archivists continue to prefer the storage of data on microfilm, rather than converting to computer disk or CD-ROM. Eric Erickson, speaking for the Genealogical Society of Utah, says that the vital records and family histories are stored in microfilm and are expected to last 500 to 1000 years! [My how times have changed!]

#### 5 Years Ago – Jan to Mar 2003

The VGS sponsored an all day workshop featuring Dr. George Schweitzer, speaking on Frontier Religion and Its Genealogical Effects, Researching in Burned Out Counties, and Pennsylvania Genealogical Research.

*Submitted by Joy Stefan*  
Feb. 9, 2008

### VGS Website

Be sure to visit the Village Genealogical Society website. There is much information on it, including our VGS library list and past VGS newsletters.

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/hsvgs/>

\* Link note: some live links have been reduced in font size to keep it on one line, so link is not divided. Magnify the newsletter to read link.



**Look Ups**

**Melting Pot Genealogical Society Library**

649-B Ouachita Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR 71901

**Hours:**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Monday & Friday, 2nd Saturday

Call 501-624-0229 to confirm that the library is open before going to visit.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~armpgs/>

**Family History Center Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

2765 Malvern Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR  
501-262-2782 (during open hours)

**Hours:**

Tuesday 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Closed Holidays**

There is also a FHC at Otter Creek, just off I-30 in Little Rock.

**Memphis Central Library**

3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis, AR  
901-415-2700

**Hours:**

Mon.-Thu. 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Fri.-Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Sun. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[www.memphislibrary.org/](http://www.memphislibrary.org/)

**Garland County Library**

1427 Malvern Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(501) 922-4483

**Hours:**

Mon., Fri., Sat.  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Sun. 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

<http://www.garland.lib.ar.us/>

Visit the "Genealogy" Room D

**Coming Events**

VGS Field Trip to the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives  
June 5, 2008

*(See VGS Programs for details)*

"Let's Get Started in Genealogy"  
Featuring

Desmond Walls Allen  
August 9, 2008

8:30AM-3:15PM

Pleasant Valley Church of Christ  
10900 Rodney Parham Rd.

Little Rock, AR

Registration fee \$10.00

<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/>

**Reminders**

If your email address, home address, or phone number changes, please let one of the officers know so that you will continue to receive the Newsletter.

**From the Editors**

Thanks to all of you who contributed articles to the Newsletter.

If you have a bit of genealogy news, trivia, or hint, please e-mail it to the editors at [mitzibitzi2@hotmail.com](mailto:mitzibitzi2@hotmail.com) or [mbbaker@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbbaker@suddenlink.net).

Be sure to give the source so we can give credit where credit is due.



**Arkansas History Commission**

One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-682-6900

**Hours:** (call to confirm)

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Saturday  
[www.ark-ives.com/](http://www.ark-ives.com/)

On your first visit you must register and obtain an admission card.

**Directions:**

- Take I-30 to I-430 north
- Take the I-630 east exit
- Take the 2B exit
- Turn left toward the Capitol
- Turn left on the 1st street
- At the next street turn right
- At bottom of hill park in the large parking lot
- Enter through door on ground level.

The History Commission and State Archives are on the 2nd floor.

You must sign in to enter the building. And sign out when you leave.

**Arkansas Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 17653  
Little Rock, AR 72222  
New web address:  
[www.agsgenealogy.org/](http://www.agsgenealogy.org/)

**Saline County Library**

Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library  
1800 Smithers Dr.  
Benton, AR 72015  
(501) 778-4766  
(800) 476-4466

Mon., Wed., Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tues. & Fri.

9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<http://www.saline.lib.ar.us/>

Visit the Genealogy Room