



Village Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 2

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

June 2009

VGS General Meeting:

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

VGS Breakfast Meeting:

**Ramona's Kitchen, 9:00 a.m.
Third Thursday of each month
(September to June)**

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VGS Programs

June 4, 2009 - "The Surprises and Rewards of Writing Family History"

You have spent countless hours researching your family and countless hours filing all the information and/or inputting all the information into your family history computer program. There is one problem. At this point very few people have access to this information. Getting the information on the internet or into a book or journal are necessary for the information to be available to others. At our June meeting Lynda Childers Suffridge will speak

Announcements

~ Summer Break ~
**No meetings in
July & August**

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**VGS Picnic
October 8, 2008
5:00 p.m.**

on writing a family history. The article she wrote for the 2007 Arkansas Genealogical Society Family History Writing Contest Bobbie Jones McLane Award is entitled: "Descendants of Reuben Searcy and Isabella McDonald." This article also won the Arkansas Historical Association Walter L. Brown Best Family History in a County or Local Journal Contest. This was quite a surprise as she did not know it had been submitted! Lynda is vice president and chair of the Awards Committee of the National Genealogical Society, secretary of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, co-editor of the AGS E-zine, editor of the Perry County (Arkansas) Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter, and lecturer in Course III at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. She will be lecturing at the National Genealogical Society Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina in May and at the FGS Conference in Little Rock in September.

Thanks to all of our recent speakers. They all have done a wonderful job. Please let us know if you would

VGS Officers:

*President Valerie B. Hartnett
V.P. Programs Marcia Clark
Asst. V.P. Prgms..... Gordon Bard
Treasurer..... Marlene Wilson
Secretary Kathy Dotson
V.P. Membership..... Paul Harkins
Librarian Judy Robbins
Historian Marcie Guise*

Board of Directors:

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

like to hear a speaker on a particular topic or if you have a speaker you would like to recommend or if you have a topic you would like to speak about at an upcoming meeting. We would love to hear from you.

*Marcia Clark, V.P. Programs
Gordon Bard, Asst. V.P. Prog.*

From the President

Soon it will be June, our last meeting before our summer break and we will all be in summer vacation mode. It is true we will not have meetings in July and August, but we don't want to let our genealogy research just sit. Believe me it will be just like we left it. Soon those too hot to golf days or too hot to work in the yard days will be here. Why not plan to do some research at a different place than you usually do. The Family History Library or the Butler Center in Little Rock might have the information that you are missing. A change in the way we are looking for answers might be what is needed. Change can be good.

This is my last article to write for the newsletter as my term comes to an

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end. I would like to thank all the VGS officers for their hard work and to the VGS membership for their support. I would like to welcome the new board. I know the new board will have the support of all the VGS membership and will be very successful. Change can be good.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your president and to get to know you better. What a great group of people VGS is made up of! I look forward to seeing you in September. I will be happy to continue to help VGS in any way that I can.

Valerie Hartnett
VGS President

FamilySearch Images

Good news for those doing research in Cook County, Illinois. The LDS FamilySearch site has added a Pilot program and many search results will have digitized images. The site is adding birth and marriage certificates, with images, entitled Illinois, Cook County Birth Certificates 1878-1922, or Illinois, Cook County Marriages 1871-1920. Go to the home page and click on 'See prototype for searching millions of records,' click on 'USA' to see a list and links of available records. Many states are listed. The indexing is a work in progress, so keep checking frequently.

www.FamilySearch.org

Photo Restoration

At the 2009 VGS Workshop I met Lori Smith who is a professional photo restorer. I viewed samples of before and after photos – one was a nearly completely faded photo of an old storefront scene, and the restoration was like a brand new photo, sharp, clear, and colorful. It was amazing. Old ancestral photos, even with missing parts, were made to look new. She lives in Kansas, but visits our area several times a year. If you have a precious photo you want restored you can contact Lori at lsmith78@cox.net,

or 620-231-8050 (Miller's Professional Imaging), for more information.

Mitzi Hunter

The Butler Center

The Butler Center has moved to the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI). The new address for the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is 401 President Clinton Ave. (still known to many as Markham Street). It isn't hard to find—it shares the same parking lot as the Main Branch of the Central Arkansas Library System at 100 Rock Street. ASI will house the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Archives and Special Collections which contains the papers of several governors of Arkansas, a platform-full of politicians, past and present.

Arkansas Genealogical Society E-Zine
April 2009

Arkansas History Commission

Go to the Arkansas History Commission online to see what is available for your research. On the home page, click on the Diamond symbol (Catalog of Arkansas Resources and Archival Treasures). You will find several links. Put a name in 'Search Arkansas History Commission databases' to find any available records for that person or surname. You may find newspaper article references, court records with file numbers, Arkansas Confederate Pensions, etc. Click on Arkansas County Records, select a county, and click Search. You will see available records for that county, usually on microfilm, including marriage, probate, land, deed, tax records, etc. Do your research notes at home and be more effective when you visit the History Commission. You can order photo copies of records or newspaper articles by completing a Photocopy Order Form. There is a minimal charge of \$10 for up to 20 pages for each record.

<http://www.ark-ives.com/>

Website Links

Kip Sperry, author of such books as *Reading Early American Handwriting and Abbreviations & Acronyms for the Family Historian* has compiled his list of recommended Family History Internet Sites. It's a veritable who's who of genealogy websites, and there's sure to be something of interest to everyone.

<http://home.byu.net/ks4/>

Discovering Family History
Online Preview Edition 2008

Vital Records, Etc.

Illinois Secretary of State and State Archives (Search Death, Marriage & War Indexes)

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

Click:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

Kentucky Death Index (1911-2000):

<http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ky/death/search.cgi>

Click:

<http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ky/death/search.cgi>

Kentucky Vital Records Index (Death, Marriage and Divorce searches):

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

Links for Kentucky by County

<http://www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA/KY/>

To change the state, type the state abbreviation in the State search box on the top of the screen.

Minnesota (Birth and Death Indexes)

<http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/index.htm>

Missouri Death Certificate 1910-1958 (free digital images)

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Click:

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Vital Record locations and criteria by state and counties.

<http://www.vitalrec.com/>

VitalChek is an official source for

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government-issued vital records, with secure online ordering of birth, death, marriage and divorce records. There is a service charge, but the convenience is worth it.

<https://www.vitalchek.com/>

Ancestry.com Update

Last week, Ancestry.com added a **Lifespan** filter that automatically limits your search results to the years you specify for birth and death, helping you to locate your ancestors faster. But how do you take advantage of this new search filter if you don't have a birth and/or death date? Don't be afraid to take an educated guess.

In many cases, you'll need to estimate a date for someone further removed in your family tree and you won't have the benefit of being able to put the event in the context of your life. When this happens, you'll want to look at the data you have gathered and base your guess-timates on the facts.

Look at the ages of children. Make some generalizations. Perhaps you know the year your grandfather was born, but not his father. Try a search with the assumption that his parents were somewhere in their twenties when he was born.

By Juliana Smith 14 May 2009
Ancestry Weekly Discovery

From the Librarian

Book recently acquired: Arkansas *Historical Report of the Secretary of State 2008*, a compendium of elected officials who have served over the state's 172-year history.

The VGS website has a listing of books in the Coronado Center Library. Go to the site and click the 'VGS Resource Room' link, then 'VGS Library of Books and CD's.'

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

The VGS subscribes to three magazines for our members. The newest issues are always on the magazine

rack. They should be placed at the "Genealogy" spot on the rack.

This month *Family Tree Magazine* has a "Guide to Special Censuses, 9 overlooked sources." The magazine also gives tips on "making the most of your family reunions." Other articles include "Tracing Slave Ancestors" using six (6) key records, and "Switching Gears" tracing an ancestor's descendants.

Family Chronicles has an interesting article on "The Future of Genealogy," top experts gaze into the crystal ball and predict the future for family history research. There is also an interesting article on "finding your rebellious ancestors."

Discovering Family History looks at how to "Avoid the Weak links," a look at common genealogy research mistakes and how to avoid them. Also, information on hiring a professional to do your research, and a great article by Diane L. Richard regarding researching ancestors: North Carolina and Beyond.

These three magazines have many interesting articles, discussing different and new ways of doing your research. The information that they offer is informative, interesting and may just be the "tip" that helps you climb over "your brick wall". Please plan to visit the library soon.

Judy Robbins
VGS Librarian

Strangers in the Box

by Pamela A. Harazim

Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, serene.
I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.
I wonder what their lives were like.
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?

I'll never know their ways.
If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.
Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be tossed away?
Make time to save your pictures,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.

Arkansas Cemetery Indexing Project

Spring is here along with warmer weather. It is time to get involved with photographing cemeteries again. Nearby cemeteries are Shiloh Cemetery on Hwy. 7, north of Home Plate Restaurant, and Mountain Valley Cemetery on W. Glazypeau Rd., one-half mile west of Highway 7. These photos will be cropped, uploaded and transcribed on www.ArkansasGravestones.org and www.FindAGrave.com.

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

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 kept whole and working properly. Magnify the online newsletter to read link if needed.*



Helpful Websites

The web links in the VGS Newsletters, beginning September 2006 to current, are live/active links. Click on the link to open the website.

Professional Research

ProGenealogists, Inc. is a consortium of professional genealogists who specialize in genealogical, forensic, and family history research. The firm, in business for over 10 years, services thousands of professional, government, media, and individual clients worldwide. ProGenealogists, Inc. assists clients in several countries using its network of over 725 U.S. and International agents. In addition to conducting excellent research for families throughout the world, they've published numerous articles and research tools on their award winning website, www.progenealogists.com, including their Genealogy Sleuth page with its hundreds of links to data-rich web pages, including vital records sites for all 50 U.S. states, at <http://www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm>. For their research tools see <http://www.progenealogists.com/resources.htm>. For a list of 25 top genealogy blogs, see <http://www.progenealogists.com/top25blogs2009.htm>. To see the complete list of 2009's 50 most popular genealogy sites, go to <http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2009.htm>.

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Secure Internet Purchasing

When browsing websites, look at the internet address. You will see that it begins with <http://>, which is normal. But, when making a purchase online, make sure that the site address changes to a secure webpage and begins with <https://> before adding your personal information.

HTTP stands for HyperText Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of saying it's a protocol (a language, in a manner of speaking) for information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients. The important thing is the letter S which makes the difference between HTTP and HTTPS. The S stands for "Secure."

The internet hoax buster site Snopes says this information is true, but also gives this warning: "Certainly using an unsecure (<http://>) connection to send sensitive information is a situation best avoided. However, due to proliferation of digital spoofing schemes, a secure (<https://>) connection is not necessarily an absolute guarantee of safety — when engaging in financial transactions over the Internet, you should still take steps to ensure you are dealing with a reputable entity, and that you are actually connected to a web site operated by the entity you are dealing with (rather than a look-alike site set up as a deception by cybercrooks).

<http://www.snopes.com/computer/internet/https.asp>



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/

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

2009 FGS Conference

Passages Through Time

Sept. 2-5, 2009
Little Rock Statehouse
Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

Hosted by
Federation of Genealogical Soc.
Arkansas Genealogical Soc.

See website for more information:

www.fgs.org

Click conference title.

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 or 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/

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/

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