



Village Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 1

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

March 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)

Newsletter Contents

VGS Programs.....	p1
Beginning Genealogy Class.....	p2
From the President.....	p2
AR Cemetery Indexing Project..	p2
Cook Co. IL Vital Records.....	p2
LA Civil War Research.....	p3
Scotland Tour.....	p3
VGS Founding Member.....	p3
Quick Tip.....	p3
VGS Information.....	p3
Outside the Box.....	p4
Helpful Websites.....	p5
Coming Events, etc.....	p6
Nearby Genealogical Centers....	p6
Reminders.....	p6

VGS Programs

March 6, 2008—"The American Civil War, 1861-1865, a Research Guide for Genealogists"

Russell P. Baker, archival manager at the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock, and a longtime friend of our Society, will speak about Civil War records. If you have ancestors who you think may have fought in the War Between the States, also called the War of the Rebellion, you won't want to miss this program.

Announcements

Afternoon Workshop
April 3, 2008
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Coronado Center

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

See VGS Programs for details

April 3, 2008—"Tips and Tricks of Internet Research"

This is an Afternoon Workshop featuring Beau Sharbrough. The workshop will be held from **1:00 to 4:00**. The cost is \$5.00. Beau is the founder of the FGS web site, the GENTECH web site, and the Lexicon Working Group. He writes regularly on technical topics in family history, and maintains the RootsWorks.com website. Registration is being offered to VGS members first, then the workshop will be advertised and others will be welcome to attend. Please register by sending your check for \$5.00 to Marlene Wilson, treasurer, if you have not already done so. Her address is 19 Fachado Dr., HSV, AR 71909.

May 1, 2008—"Homesteading 101"

The Homestead Act was a United States Federal law that gave free-

VGS Officers:

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hold title to 160 acres (one quarter section) of undeveloped land in the American West. This included lands as far east as western Wisconsin. The person to whom title was granted had to be at least 21 years of age, white, and free. He had to have built on the land, to have farmed on it for 5 years, and to have a house on it that was at least 12 by 14 feet in size. The Act was signed into law by President Lincoln on May 20, 1862. Eventually 1.6 million homesteads were granted, 10% of all land in the U.S., and 270 million acres was privatized between 1862 and 1964. Genealogists who have homestead ancestors are indeed fortunate because NARA has records on these homesteaders which have substantial information including their naturalization record, some of which have immigration data. Our speaker is Russell P. Baker, archival manager at the Ar-

(Continued on page 2)

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kansas History Commission and State Archives.

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. They 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. Don't forget to bring your drivers license which is required for admittance to the building.

Please let me know if you would 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. I would love to hear from you.

Marcia Clark, V.P. Programs

Beginning Genealogy Class

Instructor: Jeanette Frahm
Tuesdays, April 1, 8, & 15, 2008
Time: 1-3 p.m.
Coronado Center, Room 6
Cost \$10 for all three sessions
Please call Jeanette at 922-9220 or e-mail J44F65@yahoo.com for registration by March 7. Class attendance will be limited.

From the President

Stunned, nervous, excited are but a few of the emotions that I am feeling now. Through the resignation of Barb Thompson, I have become the President of VGS. First of all, I want to thank Barb for all the work she has done for our or-

ganization. Then I want to ask all of you for your help and support.

I have been a member of VGS since September 2005 and a member of the program committee since 2006. I have always enjoyed learning about my roots, but in 2004 I *really* became interested. In the quest for learning more about my family, I caught the 'lineage bug'. I belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of Indian Wars, Daughters of 1812, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Guild of Colonial Artisans. At this time, I am trying to get into Colonial Dames.

To think of it, I have only worked on the genealogy of my mother's family. I have not really started on my father's side of the family, and then there is my husband's genealogy that needs work. No wonder they say this is a commitment. Don't let anyone tell you that genealogy is just a hobby. If you have the bug, you know better.

I have learned a lot about my family history, but I didn't do it alone. Many, many people have helped me, and so that is why I have taken the office of President. I have a responsibility to help others if I can.

Do you have a responsibility to help others? I am sure many of you will answer 'yes' to that. So when you are asked to serve as an officer, remember to say yes.

Valerie B. Hartnett

Arkansas Cemetery Indexing Project

At the January VGS meeting our President announced the ongoing Arkansas Cemetery Indexing Project, and mentioned the <http://www.findagrave.com> website. We have decided to participate in the project as a way of giving back to the genealogical community.

All the genealogical information you find on the Internet is the result of thousands of hours of volunteer time – some information is free; other data can only be accessed through paid subscription like Ancestry.com. Most of us aren't able to travel everywhere our ancestors lived, so we depend on the Internet and others in the genealogical community to do lookups for us, share information they've found, and post data online.

Thirty-nine of our members have signed up to help with the AR Cemetery Indexing Project. Many of the local cemeteries have been indexed to a degree, but lack photos of the markers. Our initial project will involve creating a plot map, updating an earlier index list, and taking photos of Medlock Cemetery on Highway 5. With approximately 10 teams of 3-4 people, it shouldn't take long, and will also be a way for our members to become better acquainted. All we need now is warmer, sunny weather to get started. We hope to have several of the area cemeteries done before chigger season arrives in mid-May.

Once data and photos are collected, we will post the results on the Find A Grave website.

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

Cook County, IL Vital Records

It's the second most-populous county in the country, and it may become the most popular with genealogists. The clerk's office in Cook County, Ill.—which encompasses 956 square miles and 138 municipalities, including Chicago—is finishing up a project to digitize 24 million vital records, and it'll

(Continued on page 3)

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make most of them available in an online database mid-year.

The records in the database will date back to the 1880s and, in compliance with Illinois privacy restrictions, stretch up to 1932 for birth certificates, 1957 for marriage certificates and 1987 for death certificates. "Any genealogy records we issue are considered noncertified records," [says Kelley Quinn, spokesperson for the Cook County clerk's office]. Cook County's vital records prior to Oct. 8, 1871, were destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire.

The office hadn't yet determined a fee or URL for the site. County clerk Richard Orr suggests checking <<http://cookctyclerk.com/>> for updates.

[When you order a certificate online, you will receive the certificate as a PDF (Adobe) file. Currently, copies by mail cost \$15. - Editor]

Family Tree Magazine
March 2008, pg. 8-9

Louisiana Civil War Research

"The Young-Sanders Center for the Study of the War Between the States in Louisiana was established in the spring of 1996 in Morgan City, Louisiana. The Center was, and is, committed to a traditionalist and historically accurate examination of the antebellum period, the War Between the States, and the "Reconstruction Era" in all parts of Louisiana with emphasis on military campaigns and battles, the daily life of soldiers and civilians, and the political, social, and economic impact of Federal invasion and occupation on the people of the Bayou State. In February 2000, the Center was closed in Morgan City." <<http://www.youngsanders.org/>>

Among the links on this site: Louisiana Confederate Pension Application Index Database (searchable database with links to detailed data); Confederate Pension Records (with links to other state's Confederate pension record sites); Official Records of the Civil War (search a surname, location, battle); etc.

Site information from
Valerie Hartnett

Scotland Tour

The Presbyterian Kirk of the Pines, HSV, is offering a Best of Scotland Christian Heritage tour on September 29 to October 8, 2008. If you are interested, contact Kirk of the Pines for more information at 922-1333.

VGS Founding Member

A family celebration was held Saturday, Jan. 19, in honor of Charles Moffat on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Charles is a founding member of the Village Genealogical Society.

Happy Birthday Charles!

Google Books

Searching for a name in Google Books may turn up a gem. Some of the search results may be in *full view*, *limited preview* (some pages restricted), *snippet view*, or *no preview available*. For the books in *full view*, you can usually download them in PDF format. If you find a *full view* book and would like to copy the text, look on the right corner of the screen for the "View Plain Text." Click on this to view or copy the text. You may have to make corrections in the transcription. <http://books.google.com/>

Quick Tip

Widowed May Not Mean Widowed

Don't assume that "wd" means widowed in the census. There were many more divorces in the nineteenth and early twentieth century than one would guess. However, many women listed themselves as "widowed" rather than divorced; and men would list themselves as "single." The women would typically have children with them, so could not easily state that they were "single." Many times the men did not have the children, so they could more easily call themselves "single" without much question. Do not count the former spouse dead until you find a death record. I have found this situation several times in my family lines.

Tom Humphrey, Jacksonville, AL
Ancestry Weekly, 10 Dec. 2007

VGS Librarian

Judy Robbins has been busy indexing, recording, and storing the VGS CD-Roms in CD albums for the convenience of the members. The albums will be stored on the VGS computer desk in the Coronado Library. A list of the contents will be in the albums, and also on the VGS website.

Jeanette Frahm donated a large quantity from her personal library.

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/>

Outside the Box

Sometimes in searching for our ancestors we must think outside the box, so to speak. One of my son-in-law's ancestors, whose family emigrated from Norway, is one of those cases.

His birth name was Evind Evindsen, and his American name was Edwin Edwinson. I searched for over a year in the censuses to find this Edwin, but to no avail. Family tradition said he first came to LaSalle County, IL. The family knew where the son, Edwin, migrated, but not the father.

I searched in Google.com, and found family researchers for this family, including one in the message board archives, who was searching in Norwegian records. Following that lead, and knowing the exact birth place of Evind, I was able to find the immigration records of Evind and his family. Later when I learned how to use the digitized parish records, I was able to find the birth, christening, confirmation, marriage, and death records for this family.

In the U.S. censuses, I was actually following the wrong son, Edwin Edwinson, son of Gunder (Evindsen) Edwinson. Later, in the parish records, I was able to identify Gunder as the brother of Evind. Their parents were Evind Olsen and Guri Gundersdtr (Gundersdatter). Gunder was named after Guri's father, Gunder, and Evind was named after his father. This was part of the traditional naming pattern for Norwegians.

He appears to have never used his American name except for official purposes, like when he made a claim as a dependent father on his deceased son's Civil War Pension. I sent for the pension records of his son, Iver Edwinson, from the Na-

tional Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and received over 60 pages of documents. I think this is how I finally located him in Story City/Nevada, Story County, Iowa, not Illinois, where he originally immigrated.

In the pension records I found two references to the name of Evind Evindsen Kaltvedt. Evind and Gunder were both living on the Kaltvedt farm in Norway, and Evind began using the Kaltvedt as his surname when he purchased property in Story County in 1873. Therefore, I began search for the Kaltvedt surname.

Searching the U.S. census records still did not locate him. So I searched every record in Story County, and found: in 1870, Grundy Co., IL, Edwin Koltwait, wife Esther (Astrid); and in 1880, Story County, IA, Even Callmet (Callvedt), wife Mallen. I obtained a copy of Evind's land records dated June 11, 1873, which lists Evind E. Kaltvedt and Maline Kaltvedt. I also obtained an extract of his will, dated December 2, 1886, which was signed with an 'X' and used the name Even Kaltvedt. He must have been very sick, because his written signature is found several times in the pension claim records. His signature was Evind Evindsen, though the officials writing his claim used the name Edwin Edwinson.

So there you have it! You never know what you will find. Those illusive ancestors sometime don't like to be found.

Also, it is very important to obtain official records, such as pension records, which are full of valuable and interesting information. The land record proved to me that I had the right person, and the third wife was confirmed. She was not mentioned in the pension record. I found reference to the probate re-

cord in the Story County, Iowa, website. Be sure to check out all sources.

Mitzi Hunter

Let's get personal! Do you have an interesting research story, or have had any surprising information on an ancestor? Please submit it to me, and I will try to fit it in an upcoming newsletter. Mitzi Hunter at mitzibitzi2@hotmail.com.



Look Ups

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
<http://www.archives.gov/>

US GenWeb Project
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
Click on the state links. Many will have county links. Information varies with each site.

Rootsweb State Links
<http://resources.rootsweb.com/USA/>
Click on state link. Click on county link. Information varies with each site.

Norwegian Digital Archives
<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/> Click on English at the bottom of the screen.

"Digital Archives is a public service from the National Archives of Norway. Here you can search in transcribed source material for free."



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.

Find A Grave

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

Search for burial records that have been added to this site. Search by name, or click on Search for a Cemetery, and click on 'browse by US county' to locate a particular cemetery. Add your own burial records to this site. The VGS will be adding Garland County cemetery records to this site.

Michigan Cemetery Sources

<http://www.hal.state.mi.us/cemeteries/>

"The Michigan Cemetery Sources web site represents a compilation of published cemetery transcriptions located at the Library of Michigan and links to Michigan cemetery websites. This database also identifies the location of over 3,700 cemeteries in Michigan. It is NOT intended to include a list of personal names.

Much of this searchable information was published in the Michigan Cemetery Atlas and the Michigan Cemetery Source Book. The web site also contains information received by the Library since the Atlas (1991) and Source Book (1994) were published."

Vital Records: Birth, Death, Marriage, Divorce

<http://www.vitalchek.com/default.aspx> "VitalChek is your official source for government-issued vital records.

With secure online ordering, partnerships throughout the country, and quick turnaround, we're the one to trust." VitalChek will also provide you with the state, and sometimes county, vital records contact information, if you want to write, phone, or fax for information. Most states require you to complete their forms and have them notarized.

<http://vitalrec.com/ar.html> Select the state. It will give you links for the state office(s) contact information, and possibly county offices. These links are above the state selection link. Lower on the screen you will find links of genealogical interest for that state.

Nationwide Gravesite Locator—U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

"Search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker."

American Battle Monuments Commission

<http://www.abmc.gov/home.php> Search burial listings for WW-I, WW-II, & Korean War.

"The ABMC commemorative mission is reflected in 24 overseas military cemeteries that serve as resting places for almost 125,000 American war dead; on Tablets of the Missing that memorialize more than 94,000 U.S. servicemen and women; and through 25 memorials, monuments and markers."



Melting Pot Genealogical Society Library

649-B Ouachita Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Hours:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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

www.rootsweb.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 Event

Beginning Genealogy Class
Instructor: Jeanette Frahm
Tuesdays, April 1, 8, & 15, 2008
Time: 1-3 p.m.
Coronado Center, Room 6
Cost \$10 for all three sessions
Please call Jeanette at 922-9220 or
e-mail J44F65@yahoo.com for
registration by March 7.
Class attendance will be limited.

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