



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society

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Jane A. Wilkerson, editor
Brandon Ryan, list manager

Coming Events

August 4, 2018

"It Covers a Lot of Ground: A History of Music in Northeast Arkansas," a symposium by Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Room 103, Delta Center, ASU, 319 University Loop, Jonesboro, Arkansas. For more information go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/it-covers-a-lot-of-ground-a-history-of-music-in-northeast-arkansas-tickets-47421620343>

August 11, 2018

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association Presents: *Genealogical Seminar*, 8 a.m., Broadmoor United Methodist Church, Pearce Activity Hall, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana. Guest Speaker Philip Burnett Adderley. For more information go to <http://www.altgenealogy.com/seminar.htm>

August 21, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Rock Island Railroad in Arkansas*, by Michael Hibblen, 6:30 p.m., Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

August 22-25, 2018

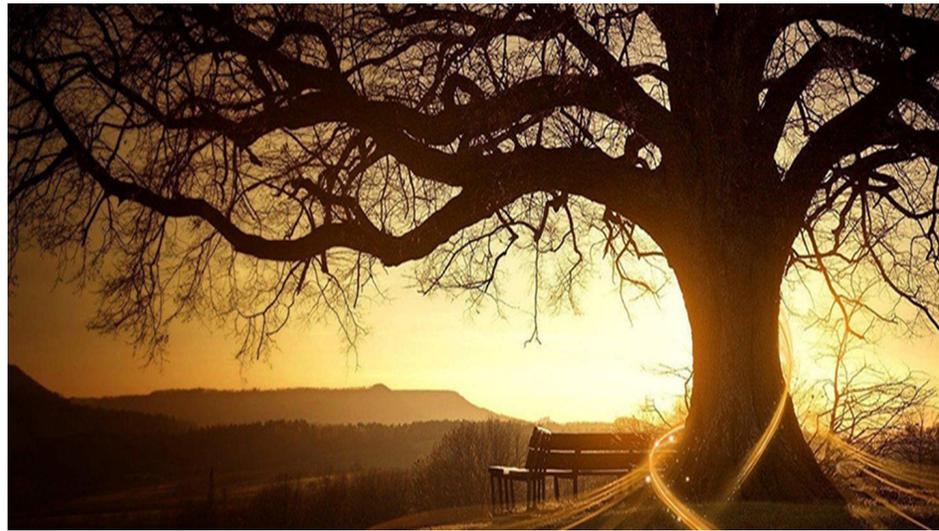
The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

August 27, 2018

Heritage Seekers, *The Rise & Fall of Napoleon, Arkansas*, by Sheila Moore-Mitchell, 6:30 p.m., Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Crowdsourcing Your Family History: When Everyone's Involved, Genealogy is Preserved

by Jeanne Rollberg



The following is republished from *AY Magazine*. The Article written by Jeanne Rollberg, was published July 31, 2018.

Are you researching your Arkansas family this summer? Arkansas is a Natural State for genealogy. Family history is the glue that holds our state's history together over time. Luckily, finding out more about our families can be enjoyable, too, especially when many members assist with small tasks that utilize interests, talents, and social media that they and you may already be using.

Intergenerational Work

- Start with careful, documented research. Have you used the extensive resources at the three locations of the [Arkansas State Archives](#), online or in person? You can learn more about your family farm or the family business. You can read about your family in historic newspapers, locate original emigration records online, find granddad's military records, and locate great-grandmother's recipes.

Coming Event

September 14-15

Standridge Family National Reunion, Holiday Inn Express, Alcoa Road, Bryant, Arkansas. For more information contact Russell Baker at gobgob3@mindspring.com

October 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Tracing Your Arkansas Roots: Genealogy 101*, speakers include Thea Baker and Diana Gilpin, 9 a.m., Historic Washington State Park.

October 19-20, 2018

The Arkansas Genealogical Society 2018 Fall Conference will be at the Benton Event and Convention Center in Benton, Arkansas. CeCe Moore, Professional Genetic Genealogist is scheduled to present.

November 4-10, 2018

National Genealogical Society Guided Research Trip to Washington, D.C. Visit *Upfront With NGS* for the details.

November 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Hidden History of Fort Smith*, by Ben Boulden, 6:30 p.m., Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

August 21-24, 2019

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Washington, D. C.

September 2-5, 2020

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

Crowdsourcing Your Family History (continued)

- Have you engaged the younger members of your family in the “tech part” of genealogy? This connects them to family history early. It also helps older family members who aren’t tech-savvy who might need help in navigating the web. This ultimately means that when the rich family history is passed on when someone dies, younger people have a stake in preserving the record. Family trees are now conveniently displayed on cell phones though the use of apps, and youths enjoy that convenience.
- If there are very busy or older family members who aren’t interested in conducting research on others, have they gathered the relevant information about themselves and documented it for the family? This is a commonly under-emphasized task; we’re so interested in documenting distant ancestors that we forget to document ourselves, and key family history is thus lost.

Social Media

- Has an expert shopper in your family/ fellow family history researcher searched eBay for photos, books, and artifacts about your family? You might be surprised about what’s available at your fingertips, and at low cost, too. A recent eBay search turned up 382 results for “Arkansas genealogy” alone. Most of us have ancestors who lived in other states as well.
- When you’re scrolling through Facebook to see friends and family, have you joined any of the more than 12,500 Facebook genealogy groups (in English)? More than 60 are about Arkansas. You can problem-solve and meet new cousins for the next family reunion from all over the world in those groups. (If Facebook is unfamiliar for you, ask a tech-savvy family member to assist.) Genealogist Katherine R. Willson updates the [list](#) frequently.
- Many people follow genealogists or genealogy groups on Twitter as well, and these are often connected to helpful genealogy blogs or they conduct genchats. Pinterest, a social medium that relies heavily on grouped images, often has critical documented information about communities or topics through pictures.

Heritage Tourism/Genealogy Travel/Reunions

- Have you followed up on research by doing heritage tourism within Arkansas? Genealogy travel is an important growing sector of the tourism market. You can easily visit the locations where your family members lived that you’ve not yet explored: walking in their actual footsteps can help you grasp their surroundings and stand a little taller. Use Google to plot their addresses (homes, businesses, schools, cemeteries) ahead of time so the walk is authentic. And then see *what else* is in those communities that made their lives vibrant.

Crowdsourcing Your Family History (continued)

- Visit the historical societies, and meet the people. Visit the farms and churches. (Call or e-mail ahead because hours are often quite limited when organizations are staffed by volunteers.) For more information on genealogy travel, please see *AY's article* from June. For extensive information on travel locations and festivals in Arkansas, see filmmaker Gary Jones' Arkansas Travel Channel. <http://garyjonesvideo.com/arkansas-travel-channel.html>
- Is there a skilled organizer in your family who can organize an Arkansas family reunion that brings together both family members and their treasured family resources? The [Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism](#) has some suggestions to help.
- Thinking about organization and planning, have you considered how to protect your precious family history gathered at reunions in case of a disaster – such as tornadoes or floods? When personal family items are lost during severe weather, those are often the possessions the owners most miss. Having an emergency plan now could save heartache later.

Photographs and Videography

- Have you made videos or still photo collections from ancestor photos ? How about reaching out to other family members to see what photo history they may agree to share? Today's family history research is about collaboration. Get the "big family picture" by locating and preserving the individual photos first.
- Do you enjoy creating videos, or have you hired a professional videographer to document your family history for permanent use? iPhone amateur videos have a small role to play here, but preserving family history visually for future generations is often worthy of more long-lasting professional videography when quality is at stake. You'll want some video of current family members dressed up as well as in casual clothing. Casual clothes may look okay contemporaneously, but more formal photos that show ancestors at their very best are appreciated by descendants over time.
- Have you used YouTube for genealogy? There's a treasure trove of historical and family history in videos there. More than 37-million "hits" come up for "YouTube and Arkansas" alone. There's something for everyone, irrespective of their talents and attitudes about technology, in family history. Sometimes life is about risking everything for a dream that only you can see. Our ancestors took such a risk when they emigrated and helped build Arkansas and America, and that's why we're here today.

Let's thank them: Commit to taking the time to find and share your family's heritage, honor it,

About the author: Jeanne Rollberg is a genealogist with American Dream Genealogy and Research who is also on the boards of the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives and the Arkansas Genealogical Society. She teaches genealogy classes at LifeQuest of Arkansas.

The Immigration Act of 1924 and the End of Ellis Island

by S. Morton

The following is republished from FamilySearch Blog and was published July 31, 2018.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, immigration to the United States was at an all-time high. Upwards of a million people per year arrived in some years leading up to World War I.¹ Hope for better work opportunities, food and shelter for families, religious freedom, personal freedom, and freedom from military conflict led many of these immigrants to the U.S. to start a new home.

The onset of WWI and new U.S. legislation in the 1900s caused the immigration boom to slow down dramatically. Although this slowdown caused Ellis Island to eventually close its doors in 1954, a key change to immigration records in The Immigration Act of 1924 can unlock many doors in your family history research.

The Immigration Act of 1924

Between 1882 and 1924, a series of major immigration laws led to the 1924 legislation that most seriously affected Ellis Island. Some U.S. citizens and organizations during this time began to petition the government for limits on immigration, spurred by concerns for economic conditions and national security. An increased prejudice against immigrants from certain countries also caused a stir over immigration law.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first major law to limit immigration. Follow-up legislation barred immigration for convicts, anarchists, workers illegally recruited overseas, immigrants with certain medical conditions, and other categories of immigrants. In 1917, a law raised the fee paid by new arrivals, instituted a literacy test, and made some restrictions based on an immigrant's nation of origin.

A two-step series of laws in the early 1920s had the most dramatic effect on immigration. In 1921, the Emergency Quota Act introduced a quota system that gave preference to northern and western Europeans. A follow-up law, the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act of 1924, kept this quota system and refined it in ways that further limited immigration from southern and eastern European countries.

Of particular note to Ellis Island historians and people doing immigrant genealogy work, the 1924 law also implemented a visa system. Instead of traveling to the United States with uncertainty about being admitted, hopeful immigrants instead applied for permission at U.S. consulate offices overseas.

The Immigration Act of 1924 and the End of Ellis Island (continued)

How did the Immigration Act of 1924 Affect Ellis Island?

During the first year after the 1924 immigration law passed, the number of immigrants dropped by about half: from 357,803 to 164,667.² [Ellis Island](#), the nation's largest immigrant receiving station, suddenly received much less traffic—and didn't need to evaluate or detain most of them, since they already had visas.

Meanwhile, immigration opponents were pushing for the mass removal of some foreign-born residents. Before long, Ellis Island became more of a holding center for potential deportations rather than an entry-processing facility.³ New facilities were soon built to separate immigrants from deportees. During and after World War II, Ellis Island also served as a training center for the U.S. Coast Guard, a military hospital, and a military detention center.⁴ The facility gradually fell into disrepair and finally closed in 1954.

How Did the 1924 Immigration Law Affect Passenger Arrival Records?

After the 1924 immigration law went into effect, ship passenger arrival manifests still captured the same abundant information about immigrant travelers, as can be seen in the 2-page register entry shown below. In addition, manifests now included a visa number and the date and place of its issue, as shown in the enlarged portion. This column hints at a remarkable, new genealogical resource that became available for immigrant ancestors: visa files!

Those who applied successfully for visas at overseas consulates brought their visa packets with them to the United States. Application forms included personal details such as addresses for the previous 5 years, parents' names, and photos. Visa packets often also contained certified birth certificates, health clearances, background checks, marriage and military service documents, letters of support, and other correspondence. These packets became part of the immigrants' visa files, which aren't available online but may be requested from [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#). Be sure to read the section that USCIS provides on "Avoiding Common Index and Records Request Issues" before submitting a request to make the process smoother.

NY Passenger Arrival Records 1925–1957

You can search for your relatives who immigrated to the United States after 1924 in FamilySearch's free collection, [New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists 1925–1957](#). The nearly 29 million names in this database include those who arrived at Ellis Island and in New York airports through 1957 (with a few minor exceptions, as described [here](#)).

As shown in the sample record above, passenger arrival records during this time period contain rich personal and family information. Some details may help you build your family tree and extend it overseas. Others may give insight into your relatives' reasons for immigrating, their plans at the time of travel, and the people who helped support their journeys.

The Immigration Act of 1924 and the End of Ellis Island (continued)

Search here for your relatives in [New York passenger lists for 1925–1957](#). If you think your relatives arrived in New York earlier, you can also search for them in NY passenger arrival manifests for [1820–1891](#) and for [1892–1924](#).

If you find your immigrant ancestor in the Ellis Island records, share your story! We'd love to hear how visa records unlocked parts of your family tree. #familysearch

Endnotes:

1. Henry P. Guzda, "Ellis Island a welcome site? Only after years of reform," *Monthly Labor Review* (July 1986), pp. 30–36, accessed at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1986/07/art4full.pdf>, 18 July 2018.
2. Robert Keith Murray, *The 103rd Ballot: The Legendary 1924 Democratic Convention That Forever Changed Politics* (New York City: HarperCollins), 2016.
3. Guzda, "Ellis Island."
4. "A Timeline of Ellis Island," The Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation, accessed July 27, 2018. <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/ellis-timeline>

Other Sources Consulted:

"The Immigration Act of 1924 (the Johnson–Reed Act)," [U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian](#).

Colletta, John P., PhD. *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record. Revised 3rd edition*. Orem, UT : Ancestry Publishing, 2008.

Tepper, Michael. *American Passenger Arrival Records: A Guide to the Records of Immigrants Arriving at American Ports by Sail and Steam*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999.

"Immigration and the Great War." National Park Service. Accessed July 26, 2018. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/immigration-and-the-great-war.htm>

The Arkansas State Archives is interested in you!

The Arkansas State Archives and Friends of the Arkansas State Archives are looking for eager individuals to help indexing county and state records. Work is done sitting down, along side staff members, with gloves and masks provided. It takes place on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to noon in a conference room at the Collections Management Facility on North Street in Little Rock where parking is more easily available than at the Archives. Come and join the fun.

Arkansas Genealogical Society 2018 Fall Seminar



**Featuring CeCe Moore
& Jeanne Rollberg
October 19-20, 2018**

**Program: Friday, October 19, 2018
Both Presentations by Jeanne Rollberg, AGS Board Member**

5:00PM Registration (Vendors Open 5:00PM - 9:00PM)

6:00PM Social Media Enhance Family History: Mining the Fields Traditional genealogy research may be combined with proper uses of Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, and blogs to enrich the family tree and enliven connections in the family history experience. Evaluate and use social media with expertise.

7:00PM Break

7:30PM The Ancestor Pester/ Excelling in Genealogy Travel/Reunions & Research Together -

Nearly 1/3 of Americans - and especially Baby Boomers - visit family and broader heritage sites yearly, often combining reunions/other travel with family history study. Learn to systematically maximize research while getting the most from travel.

**Saturday, October 20, 2018
All Presentations by CeCe Moore**

8:00AM Registration (Vendors Open 8:00AM - 3:00PM)

9:00AM The Power of DNA: Genetic Genealogy Basics - Understanding the basics of the four types of DNA and three types of genetic genealogy tests is essential to successfully applying genetic genealogy to furthering your research. This presentation helps to lay the foundation for genealogists interested in adding genetic genealogy to their skill set.

10:00AM Break

10:30AM Who Am I: Exploring Ethnicity Estimates - Addressing the question of "Who am I?" through DNA testing that provides ethnicity percentages is becoming a popular research tool. Attendees will learn how to better interpret and analyze these results and what they can and cannot tell you about your family tree.

11:30AM Lunch

1:00PM AGS Annual Meeting

1:30PM Applying Autosomal DNA to Your Genealogical Research - The introduction of autosomal DNA into the genealogical scene empowered our use of DNA to learn more about our ancestors in a way never before possible. This presentation will cover FAQs regarding best practices and the most efficient methodologies in the application of autosomal DNA to our research.

2:30PM Break

3:00PM Genetic Genealogy Case Studies - Step-by-step case studies demonstrate the use of all four types of DNA in conjunction with traditional research to solve genealogical mysteries and showcase the exciting possibilities this work offers.

**Arkansas Genealogical Society
2018 Fall Seminar Registration Form**

October 19-20, 2018

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

email: _____

Registration Fee

A syllabus is guaranteed for those registered by September 24

_____ **\$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**

Hotel Reservations can be made at:

**Fairfield Inn & Suites
17320 Interstate 30 North
Benton, AR, 72019
(501) 722-6330**

National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair 2018

October 24, 2018 - sixth annual virtual Genealogy Fair

Every year, the National Archives hosts a virtual Genealogy Fair via live webcast on YouTube. The sessions offer family history research tools on Federal records for all skill levels. Thousands of family historians participate in the live event.

As a virtual attendee, you can:

- Watch the entire day on YouTube.
- Join us – from wherever and whenever.
- Participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event.
- Watch individual sessions and download the materials at your convenience -- live or after the event.
- Attend free of charge and registration!

Administrative Stuff

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

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