



# AGS Ezine

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Jane A. Wilkerson, Jeanne Rollberg, and Andria Yakoubian editors

Brandon Ryan, list manager

#### Coming Events

Click on link below for information on other events around the state,

[https://  
heritageseekersar.weebly.com/  
around-arkansas.html](https://heritageseekersar.weebly.com/around-arkansas.html)



## 1925 Works Now In Public Domain

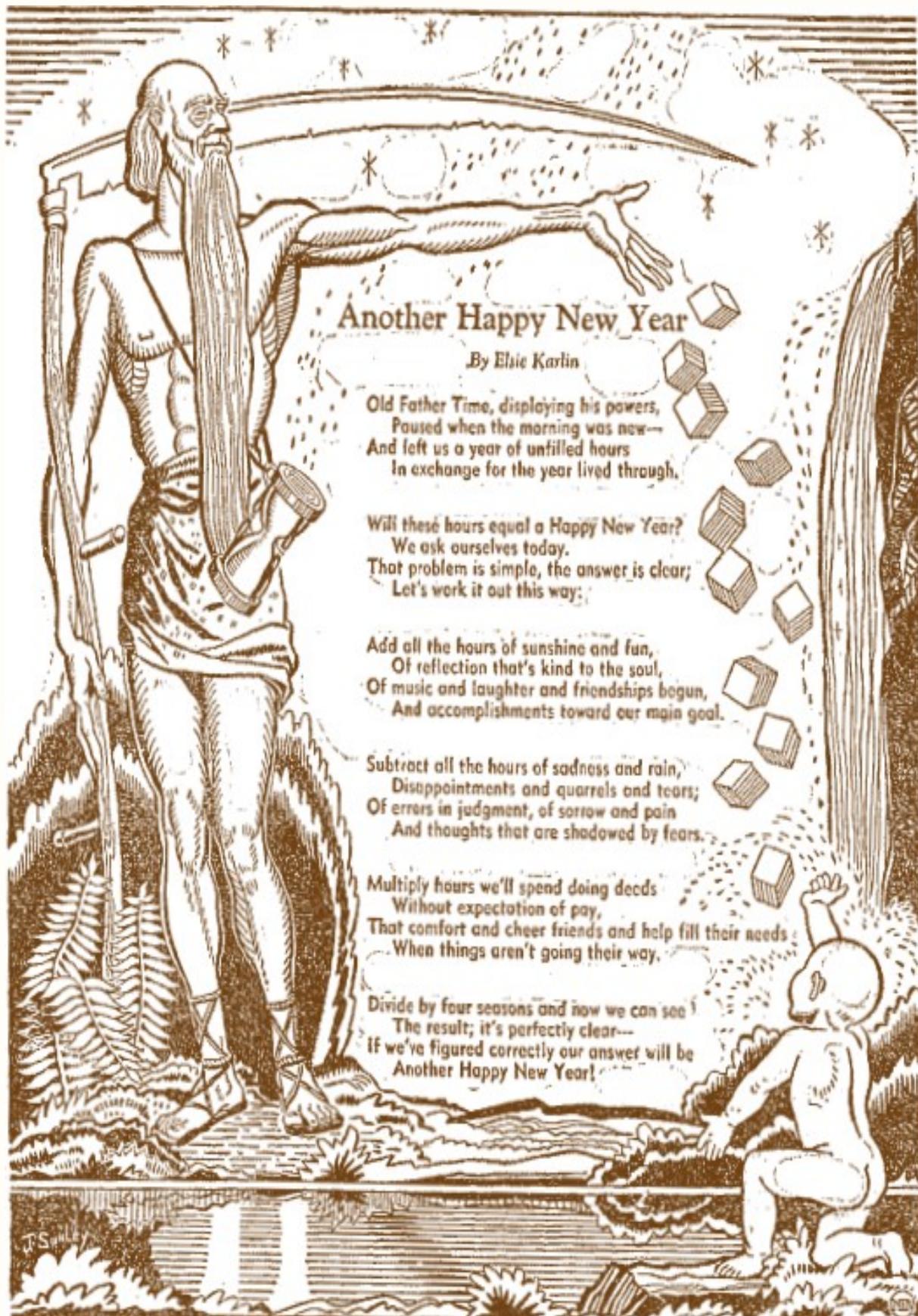
Happy New Year to genealogists! As of January 1, copyrighted works from 1925 entered the US public domain, where they will be free for use to enhance our family history research.

How will researchers access the large collection of cultural material? The Internet Archive will add books, movies, music, and more to its online library. HathiTrust will make tens of thousands of titles from 1925 available in its digital repository. Google Books will offer the full text of books from that year, instead of showing only limited snippet views or authorized previews.

These works also include literature such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, films, and music ranging from the *Sweet Georgia Brown* to songs by W.C. Handy. Even Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* became public domain.

Works from 1925 were supposed to go into the public domain in 2001, after being copyrighted for 75 years. But Congress extended the term to 95 years.

In 2021, there is a lot to celebrate because 1925 brought us some incredible culture and conflict. In nearby Tennessee, the "Scopes Monkey Trial" took place, pitting religion against the theory of evolution. The Harlem Renaissance was in full swing. The iconic *New Yorker* magazine was founded. The literature reflected both a booming Roaring Twenties economy, whose fruits were unevenly distributed, and the lingering upheaval and tragedy of World War I. The culture of the time reflected all of those contradictory tendencies.



## Another Happy New Year

By Elsie Karlin

Old Father Time, displaying his powers,  
Paused when the morning was new—  
And left us a year of unfilled hours  
In exchange for the year lived through.

Will these hours equal a Happy New Year?  
We ask ourselves today.  
That problem is simple, the answer is clear;  
Let's work it out this way:

Add all the hours of sunshine and fun,  
Of reflection that's kind to the soul,  
Of music and laughter and friendships begun,  
And accomplishments toward our main goal.

Subtract all the hours of sadness and rain,  
Disappointments and quarrels and tears;  
Of errors in judgment, of sorrow and pain  
And thoughts that are shadowed by fears.

Multiply hours we'll spend doing deeds  
Without expectation of pay,  
That comfort and cheer friends and help fill their needs  
When things aren't going their way.

Divide by four seasons and now we can see  
The result; it's perfectly clear—  
If we've figured correctly our answer will be  
Another Happy New Year!

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# Genealogists, police work to solve cold cases through genealogy DNA databases

by Andria Yakoubian

How To Take Advantage Of Ancestry ThruLines(trademark symbol)

When you take a DNA test, there is a lot of information there and some is difficult to understand. But there is a lot of information in that DNA that can help you weed through your family tree and DNA matches.

If you have taken an Ancestry DNA test, the first thing you need is a pretty good family tree. The more relatives you have in that tree, the more Ancestry ThruLines can help you. If you have a tree with 3 people, you might see a message that says:

The logo for ThruLines, featuring the word "ThruLines" in a white, sans-serif font with a trademark symbol, set against a dark grey rectangular background.

**YOU** may not be seeing suggestions from ThruLines because there is not enough information in the linked family tree.

[Test settings](#)

So, the first thing you want is a good solid tree. The second element to making ThruLines work is a Public tree. And the third thing is to help your cousins with smaller trees to connect to your tree. Work their tree out, please mark all living people as living, and if you are not sure, go ahead and mark them as living. Then, when you get to those ancestors that have passed on, build their tree, as you would your own. Once you connect their tree to yours, you can leave the DNA match in your tree or you can take them out. When you can seamlessly connect their small tree with your tree, ThruLines will pick up that information and connect the two of you together. The more DNA cousins you put in your tree, the more people ThruLines can assess that all descended from the same ancestors. But if you have someone wrong in your tree, ThruLines might pick up that wrong information as well.

ThruLines is another hint. It's another tool to use to help you. But like many online transcribed documents, things can be wrong.

One of the tricks to understanding and using ThruLines is the ability to pinpoint siblings. Many learn, through doing cluster research, to list all the children of the family. Sometimes there's one but most times there are many. It is through that type of research, that two siblings connect to the same parents. That is what you need to look for when using ThruLines. If two sibling lines cannot be found, maybe you have the wrong parents.

So take advantage of this new tool and see if it can help with any brick walls you may have.

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# Genealogy 2021 New Year's Resolutions

by Jeanne Rollberg

1. Have fun in '21! Expand those you share research with so that the exploration can be divided and the documentation will be passed on to active genealogists. Remember to verify all information in family trees or mark it as hypothetical.
2. Invite younger people to help you with technology as a way to whet their interest for family history. DNA might be another area of interest.
3. Clean up, add to, and/or reverify thin sections of family trees with new information.
4. Begin preparing for 2022's dissemination of the 1950 census can help your family tree. 1950 census included fewer census questions.
5. Consider which new software programs or technology is worth your time and will yield greatest results; avoid a scattershot approach.
6. Remember to use unique state and local genealogy resources not always available in libraries and historical societies or online nationally. (The Arkansas State Archives has three research facilities. AGS web site features archived Arkansas Family Historians that may assist in solving mysteries.)
7. Document yourself: pay it forward. Type a minimum 4-page summary of your life, including nuclear family, education, military service, and other important aspects. Make sure at least 3 other people have copies.
8. Plan "roots tourism" in Arkansas or elsewhere. It's a treat that yields new insights and an opportunity to learn more "on the ground." You may even meet your relatives there at a family reunion.
9. Help a genealogy novice get started.
10. Learn what's new in family history by attending or viewing conferences like the AGS Fall Seminar in October that brings in nationally known speakers. Support your local history and genealogy groups ( especially those that yield research newsletters or publications you can use).

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## Who's Mining Our Family Tree Data?

Genealogist Lisa Louise Cooke often identifies cutting edge issues related to genealogy and technology. One relates to how genealogy and artificial intelligence and machine learning connect to our public online family trees. Other researchers may examine them to compile aggregate data from information never available on individuals in one place before.

Often, the genealogy database companies are working behind the scenes on projects with outside research organizations, but users are unaware of this, at least initially. This issue may shape our attitudes about whether to make family trees public or private.

In video program "Genealogy Elevenses With Lisa, #32", she asked the question "Who Is Interested in Your Genealogy Data?" She referenced the *The Record Linking Lab* at Brigham Young University as just one example.

Cooke wrote, "It's run by a BYU Economics Professor who published a research paper on their work called [Combining Family History and Machine Learning to Link Historical Records](#). The paper was co-authored with a Notre Dame Economics and Women's Studies professor." "Their published paper does offer an eye-opening look at the value that those outside the genealogy community place on all of the personal data we're collecting and the genealogical records we are linking."

At this link, you may download a copy of the paper, if interested. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26227>

We are excited that Cooke is slated to speak at the annual AGS fall seminar in October, 2021.

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## CALS offers Virtual Programs in February/March

Need historical context for your genealogy research? The Central Arkansas Library System's Encyclopedia of Arkansas and Bobby L. Roberts Library of Arkansas History and Art will offer a series of virtual programs in February/March to celebrate Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Each program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be available via Zoom and/or Facebook Live.

The schedule includes:

Feb. 1: Cherisse Jones-Branch on African Americans and the American Farm Bureau Federation, 1920-1966  
Feb. 8: Richard Buckelew on lynching in Arkansas

Feb. 15: Brian Mitchell on Louisiana's Reconstruction lieutenant governor, Oscar Dunn

Feb. 22: Stephanie Harp and Kwami Abdul-Bey on the lynching of John Carter

March 8: Carmen Williams on how Black women authors portray Arkansas

March 15: Aleshia O'Neal on Charlie May Simon

March 22: Robyn Spears on women and foodways

### Administrative Stuff

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