



# *The Bulletin*

## Newsletter of the Northern Arizona Genealogical Society

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## **Board Announcements**

The Board is pleased to announce two Board Member changes.

Deb Zdanowicz has agreed to take over the Secretary position that was vacated by Phyllis Lewellen when she moved out of town.

Steve Stierwalt has accepted a new position as Tech Support taking over the responsibilities of Social Media previously held by Deb. He will be combining the work on our website with new technological support for our organization. Steve is on the board of another genealogical society and is experienced in the use of technology for genealogical societies. We are very lucky to have his assistance and look forward to his help in advancing NAGS. Welcome Steve!

\*\*\*\*\*

Stay informed about NAGS activities. Check your mailbox and our website for upcoming virtual presentations and activities.



**Family History**

## Board of Directors Committee Chairs

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Newsletter: Rita Kraus  
Program: Barbara Wich  
Publicity: Evelyn Zimmerman  
Special Projects: Sharon Atkins  
Tech Support : Steve Stierwalt



Our Family History Center liaison Dick Hiatt has informed us that the center will probably not re-open until January or February 2021.

The good news is they have successfully installed WIFI in the building and the computers are being updated to Windows 10.

Our NAGS meetings will continue through the ZOOM meeting venue. ZOOM is safe. Early security concerns are no longer an issue. Just let us know that you want to participate, and you will receive invitation that includes a password you will need to enter for a secure meeting.

Come join us, have fun and learn to be a better family genealogist.

## Our Meetings



Membership meetings during this Covid 19 period will be held virtual via ZOOM. They will still be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Members will receive an email invitation with instructions and a password. Membership meetings will start at 2 p.m. unless otherwise stated. Please plan to login 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

*Support us when you  
shop this holiday*

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Many of you are Christmas shopping online. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization- That's US!

Simply go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> and select **Northern Arizona Genealogical Society** as your recipient and shop as you normally would!

## Our Newsletter

The Northern Arizona Genealogical Society provides the information in our newsletters in good faith, for general information and personal research purposes.

- We do not make any warranties about its completeness, reliability and accuracy.
- We do not assume liability of statements of fact or opinions made by contributors.
- We review all submitted material and it is our intention to comply with all copyright laws.

## Back Up Your Genealogy Files

It is the first day of the month. It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!



Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, **if not more often**. (My computers automatically make off-site backups of all new files every few minutes.)

Given the events of the past month with genealogy websites laying off employees and cutting back on services, you now need backup copies of everything more than ever. What happens if the company that holds your online data either goes off line or simply deletes the service where your data is held? If you have copies of everything stored either in your own computer or stored in a different company's online service, such a loss would be inconvenient but not a disaster.

Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

*Welcome*  
*We're Glad you're here!*

We welcome everyone to many years of continued membership, fellowship, research and volunteer opportunities within the Society while climbing their family tree. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities and events we are planning for the rest of the year as we journey through these trying times.

## GENEALOGY...

*You can't just call it  
a "hobby"!*

While most family researchers have no ambition to be professional genealogists, as they grow in their knowledge and commitment to this work, they become increasingly uncomfortable with labeling their efforts a "hobby." It is an avocation, a mission, something that requires a long and true commitment.

## Cableone Email Address Change

Don't lose your email connections. Those of you with a Cableone.net email address will need to switch to another company. Sparklight has confirmed to me the rumors that the Cableone.net email addresses are going away in early 2021. There will not be a Sparklight email. Even when you do switch you can keep Cableone until it expires.

**Stay Safe**

**Stay Healthy**

**Stay Home**

**Attend Virtual Gen Meetings on Zoom**

**Take Advantage of Webinars &  
Facebook Sites**

**Have Fun & Genealogy On!**

## Our Rapidly Changing Genealogy World

Our world is changing rapidly, and many of those changes are being pushed along by the current COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that we all need to take to try to slow down the spread of the virus. In the world of genealogy, most of our in-person learning, researching and socializing activities have been cancelled or shut down, and many new virtual opportunities are cropping up to take their places. It is likely that these transformative innovations will continue and change the ways that we do things long after the COVID virus fades from view. As with most changes, they come in the form of a mixed blessing – some aspects are easier or better, while we are pressed to give up other aspects that we had liked or enjoyed. Here are a few thoughts about the trade-offs as we move genealogy into a virtual environment.

**The Good:** First, we should all appreciate that we have access to user-friendly technology today that makes it easy to maintain connections virtually while we cannot safely connect with one another face- to -face. Certainly, if we were facing these times of restriction without online communication options, life would be much more difficult. The convenience factor is another huge advantage. We can sign on from the comfort of my own home or anywhere that there is reliable Internet access, and much of the pre-recorded content is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. We can view recorded sessions more than once to fully absorb all the content. Participating in online learning events also saves lots of money that would have been spent on meals and lodging while attending an in-person event. One more thing that we can appreciate is the prerecorded sessions watched at our convenience. We can replay to hear many things that we are in-



spired by or intend to follow-up on anytime we wish.

**The Bad:** As with most big changes, there are trade-offs. Without in-person attendance, we lose the social interaction and the chance to chat and reconnect with friends and colleagues. For some individuals, the social connection is an important reason to attend a conference, and this in-person connect is difficult to replace in a virtual environment. For many of us, it is also more difficult to maintain focus and attention when sitting in front of a computer screen than when we are listening to a live speaker in the same room where we are. We may have difficulty carving out dedicated time to watch virtual sessions without interruptions and distractions from the home environment. The other significant

downside to the virtual transformation is that we still have some members and friends who do not have Internet access, a computer or device for viewing online content, or the technological skills and comfort to be able to participate virtually.

**The Ugly:** Virtual participation allows us to be more comfortable and casual as we view the content from our homes, but this sometimes allows us to become too complacent about keeping up our personal appearance when we don't have to be concerned about being seen by others. For those who have a habit of snacking while watching TV or computer videos, the extra pounds may begin to add up quickly!

This transition to virtual technology will be a big win for genealogists, with the benefits far outweighing the downsides. It has the potential to allow all of us to access more high-quality learning opportunities, and more often. For some individuals who live far from where in-person events are usually held, or who are largely housebound due to health or caregiver responsibilities, online access opens a new world. For those of us who are introverts by nature, this change is a great one!

## Family Surnames - Coat of Arms and Family Crests



Interest in Coats of Arms and Family Crests has piqued with the hit show 'Game of Thrones' including with genealogists. One of the first things a lot of beginning genealogists want to explore is their family crest or coat of arms. It is a mistaken belief among beginners that every family has one of these somewhere in their ancient history, and newcomers to the genealogical field naturally want to celebrate their family by bringing their coat of arms back to life. This is a wonderful ambition, and if your family truly does have a coat of arms or crest that you are entitled to use, you should learn about it and display it proudly.

Historically, a coat of arms is a design on the shield of a medieval knight. The design was unique to an individual. Sometimes, the individual only had rights to the coat of arms during his lifetime. Other times, he could pass it down to his descendants, and it became the family coat of arms. As time went on, some nations and even corporations adopted their own coats of arms. The symbols on a coat of arms are meant to represent the achievements of the person, state, or corporation to whom or which the arms were granted.

The first documented use of coats of arms in medieval times is on the Bayeux Tapestry, which dates from the 11th century A.D. and chronicles the Norman invasion of England. Some of the knights on the tapestry are seen holding shields with heraldic insignia on them, usually painted crosses.

A coat of arms became common by the 12th century and was used by many knights and minor feudal lords who went into battle. Within another century, families were using coats of arms as the family logo and sewed these arms onto flags that flew above their castles and manors. Only the highest classes of people in medieval Europe used coats of arms, as they were the only one with ancestors distinguished

enough to have been granted them by the kings of the time. Once a family started using a coat of arms, it was passed down through the generations, from one to the other, even down to the present day.

An individual had to be granted a coat of arms by a ruling monarch to be able to legally use it. After that, the laws or customs governing who had the right to use them varied by country. In most of Europe, only the aristocracy could use them. In the Germanic countries, both aristocrats and free citizens who were not noble, but who had distinguishing accomplishments, could be granted them and use them.

In England and Scotland, only the person who was originally granted the coat of arms could use it as it was. While coats of arms were made hereditary in England by King Richard I in the 13th century during the first Crusades, each generation had to change the coat of arms slightly to distinguish it from the generation prior. Women were also allowed to bear their own coat of arms, if it incorporated unique designs along with the main family design so that the arms distinguished them as female bearers of the arms.

Churches and towns were granted the right to use coats of arms to identify themselves. Universities and some companies that had royal charters were also given coats of arms, which became the prototypes of the modern corporate logo.

The family crest is part of the overall coat of arms. It is the three-dimensional object at the top of the arms often referred to as a crest, such as the crest of a wave on the ocean, or the crest of a mountain or building. The crest is an important identifier for what the person who originally received the arms did to receive it and has often been used on its own as a smaller family logo over the centuries, without the full arms beneath it. As centuries passed, the original meaning of the crest was often forgotten, and it simply became an identifying symbol for a

*(Continued on page 6)*



family of high rank or nobility.

Today, nearly anyone can claim the use of those arms, except in cases where they are trademarked, as most European countries no longer regulate their use. Some countries like Italy do not recognize them at all, leaving anyone free to adopt a coat of arms as their own. In the United Kingdom it is different. There are still laws there governing the use of coats of arms that must be followed by anyone in any part of the world who wishes to use them.

In the United Kingdom is that there is no such thing as a coat of arms that is granted to a surname. They are granted to individuals only. To legally use the arms, a person must be the person to whom the arms were originally granted or a direct male-line descendant (in a legitimate line of descent...no illegitimate lines are eligible for use of the arms) of that person. The College of Arms in the United Kingdom can make new grants of arms even today. To be granted a new coat of arms you must submit a formal request to the College of Arms directly. This applies to individuals, corporations, and private organizations.

Americans who can prove a direct legitimate descent from a subject of the British Crown during a period of pre-Revolutionary War can petition the College of Arms for an Honorary Arms that will be granted to one person. That person then has the right to pass down the arms through the legitimate male line of their family. This rule of legitimate male-line descent is why some people with the same surname have the legal right to use a coat of arms in the UK, and others with the same surname do not.

Nothing stops you from designing your own coat of arms and/or family crest. Just know that it is not a hereditary one and has no official or ancestral meaning. Your family may have a legitimate ancient coat of arms, but your branch probably does not hold the right to use it. There are only a very few cases where you find you belong to a line that does have the right to use an ancient coat of arms. If you

do, display them proudly, because they are part of a rich and lengthy heritage few can claim or prove.

You can design one yourself and start using it as part of a new family tradition and pass it down through your family. Be sure you record where and how the arms were started, and what the symbols you chose to put in it mean, so future generations will know how your family got its coat of arms.

### Parts of a Coat of Arms

A real coat of arms is divided into several parts. Each part tells you something about the individual, family, corporation, or organization to which it was granted.



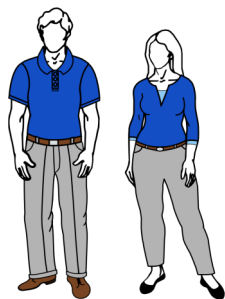
**The Motto:** The motto of the person or entity who owns the arms. It can be anything they want to say that they feel represents them and/or their group or family. The motto may or may not be placed on a design of some sort, and it is located at the top of the arms.

**The Crest:** Located directly under the motto is a three-dimensional symbol of some kind that identifies an achievement of the owner of the arms.

**The Shield Elements:** Since arms were originally painted on shields, the shield is now a basic part of any coat of arms. It is a miniature representation of the original shield. There may be several different designs on the shield, and their placement and colors tell a story about the origin of the arms.

**Supporters:** These are usually two animals or people that stand on either side of the shield. The animals or people used as supporters tell part of the story of the origin of the arms.

## Unmarried and Childless Ancestors



Does every genealogist have favorite ancestors? I do not know for sure, but I will bet that they do. For some reason certain ancestors catch our fancy, and we spend way more time researching and writing about them than we do about the others.

Some of our interesting ancestors are not even direct ancestors. They are those overlooked and under-researched collateral ancestors who never married or who did marry but had no children.

These folks are often relegated to back of the file cabinet when it comes to researching their lives since genealogists tend to research forward as well as back in time, and these childless relatives don't have much to offer when it comes researching forward. We are never going to find a DNA cousin who descends from one of them. However, a case can be made for looking more closely at these dead-end relatives, who are only dead end when it comes to having direct descendants. It often turns out that these folks are much prolific in terms of leaving records of genealogical value than their more fertile siblings.

One good reason to look for records for unmarried and childless relatives relates to personal records. Maybe it is because these people are not as busy

raising children and grandchildren, but they are often the keepers of the family history, so their files sometimes contain family memoirs and pedigree charts. The biggest issue with these types of records is determining who, if anyone, kept the records after the relative died. Since there are no children to inherit them, it is important to track down collateral relatives of the collateral relatives. Nieces and nephews are often a good starting point.

Probate files are also valuable when they are found for childless/unmarried relatives. This can be particularly relevant when it comes to unmarried women since married women seldom owned anything in earlier days. Their husbands owned all the couple's property before and after the woman's death. It is always worth checking for a probate, but an unmarried woman is far likelier to have a file. The probate itself is frequently helpful when it comes to unmarried or childless folks since any property these people owned needed to be distributed to their closest heirs. With no children or spouses, this often includes siblings and/or nieces and nephews. Learning who a person's nieces and nephews were leads to learning who his/her siblings and parents were and can help break down brick walls.

Another reason for researching unmarried/childless relatives is that they often are the most interesting characters on a family tree. With no families to raise, they often had the leisure and financial wherewithal to pursue different interests and gave more time to careers giving us a glimpse into a different lifestyle.

### 1840 Census

There are two pages in the 1840 census. There is a column for "Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services". The column next to it is for that

person's age. It isn't limited to the head of household. It could be anyone in the household who was a pensioner.

The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.

~ Winston Churchill

## The Best (?) Portable Document Scanner

For those of you looking for better document management here is an article reprinted courtesy of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

Genealogists tend to collect a lot of paper, including photocopies of all sorts as well as hand-written notes, printouts of email messages, and much more. Of course, this creates problems: how to organize and maintain that pile of paper?

I recommend going **paperless**. That is, digitizing and then securely saving the digital images of that paper. Using today's computer tools, organizing images of paper documents is much easier than organizing the original papers. Saving everything as digital images offers more security, saves space, is better for the environment, and reduces costs when compared to storing paper.

I went paperless several years ago and hope to never go back to filing cabinets, 3-ring binders, and constantly lost documents. For a list of my past articles about going paperless, start at: <https://bit.ly/2Gnn6Q4>.

I have written before about using my favorite scanner that stores the images directly in any of a number of cloud-based storage services. However, it is a rather large and heavy scanner that requires power from a wall outlet. Now Ben Keough has written a review in the Wirecutter web site called The Best Portable Document Scanner that should interest anyone contemplating the purchase of a PORTABLE scanner.

**NOTE:** Wirecutter.com (a division of the New York Times) is one of the few web sites I trust to publish accurate and impartial reviews of all sorts of products. The articles on Wirecutter.com are not influenced by paid advertisements.

Ben Keough writes:

*"We've spent more than 130 hours re-*

*searching and testing portable document scanners since 2013, and after our latest round of testing we're convinced that the Brother ADS-1250W provides the best balance of usability, performance, and portability you can find. It accurately recognizes text, produces good-looking results, works wirelessly with computers and mobile devices alike, and scans quickly."*



The same article has links to non-portable scanner reviews as well.

**NOTE:** While it is lightweight and is called a "portable" scanner, the ADS-1250W does not operate from batteries. It requires 110- or 220-volt power from a wall outlet. You can carry it almost anywhere, but you will still need to find a wall outlet to power it.

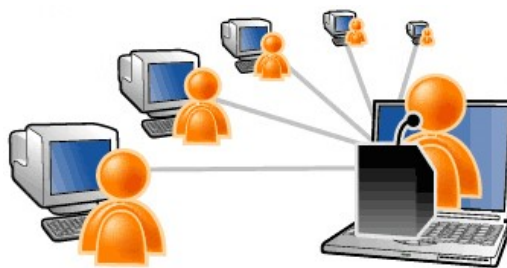
I am not going to purchase a new portable scanner as I already own two of them and they work well. I don't see any need to replace them. However, if I were in the market for a new portable scanner, I would read Ben Keough's article and carefully consider his findings.

You can find *The Best Portable Document Scanner* at: <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-portable-document-scanner>.



# Things Virtual

Here are a few interesting virtual sites to help with your family history search strategies. There are so many online sites and genealogy blogs. These are some that may be of interest regardless of your research level.



- Genealogy Conference Keeper  
The most complete calendar and collection of genealogy events on the Internet  
<https://conferencekeeper.org/>

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars  
Live webinars are free for a week. Lots of others for a small subscription.  
<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

- Geneawebinars  
information about genealogy-related online meetings, classes, hangouts, seminars, and webinars  
<http://blog.geneawebinars.com/>

- Genea-Musings  
Genea-Musings features genealogy research tips and techniques, genealogy news items and commentary by Randy Seaver who thinks that Genealogy research is really FUN!  
<https://www.geneamusings.com/>

- Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter  
This is a very popular online genealogy magazine.  
<https://blog.eogn.com/>

- The Legal Genealogist  
Judy G. Russell, a genealogist with a law degree  
<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

- Olive Tree Genealogy  
By Lorine McGinnis Schulze  
<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/>

- Genealogy Zoom Webinar Saturdays, October 10 and 17 9:00 AM TO Noon (PDT) Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society For more information and to register online, visit [www.cccgs.net](http://www.cccgs.net)

- VIRTUAL - Illinois State Genealogical Society, Virtual 2020 Conference: Seeking the Past, Envisioning the Future. 24 Oct 2020  
Registration at <https://ilgensoc.org>

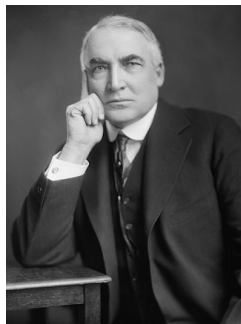
- Check your mailbox for information on our monthly Membership Zoom meetings hold on the 4th Saturday of the month..

Be sure to check your NAGS emails for information on upcoming ZOOM Membership Meetings and SIG webinars. Possible subjects to be covered include using ZOOM in genealogy research, DNA, research techniques, Teaching Moments, and more.

To receive a once-weekly email from the [conferencekeeper.org](https://conferencekeeper.org) which includes only the new events added to the calendar from the previous week, plus upcoming deadlines for contests, calls for papers, or conference registrations, go the website and submit the form.

## Grandson of Former US President Asks to Exhume His Remains

by Dick Eastman · September 14, 2020 ·



An interesting story. The uses of DNA testing can change families and history.

Warren Gamaliel Harding (November 2, 1865 – August 2, 1923) was the 29th president of the United States from 1921 until his death in 1923. He was a member of the Republican Party.

The grandson of former President Harding has launched a legal bid to have the Republican's remains exhumed to confirm they are related.

James Blaesing is the grandson of Nan Britton who was Harding's mistress while the president was still married to Florence Kling Harding. James Blaesing told a court he wants to establish his ancestry with "scientific certainty".

Members of Harding's family have opposed the request, filed in May and will go before a family court judge in Ohio.



NAN BRITTON, MISTRESS OF  
PRESIDENT HARDING

You can read more about this story in an article in the BBC News website at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54146221>. or <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/18/us/warren-harding-exhume.html>

An earlier story at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-33915102> describes the results of 2015 DNA tests of Harding's relatives that proved a relationship between Harding and his mistress.

*If you read further about the Harding family, you will discover some interesting twists and turns in this story and in their history.*

## 23andMe Genetic Testing News

The 23andMe testing company has introduced a new family tree-building tool. They can automatically generate a visualization of your relationships to genetic matches who have opted into the company's DNA Relatives feature.

The tree reconstruction tool differs from those on Ancestry.com or MyHeritage because it's based solely genetic relationships and age rather than the

incorporated tree date provided by testers. Users can add notes such as relatives' names, dates, and photos to the tree. In the future, users will be able to edit relationships and share the tree with others.



"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrations and revolutionists."

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

# Our Covid Holidays - Here's Some Thoughts



Our 2020 holidays will look different this year if current restrictions remain in place. Many traditional celebrations and activities have already been canceled. You may want to keep your Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations to a minimum and be content with small intimate celebrations this year. There is much to be thankful for.

Travel will depend on the level of infection and the circumstances where extra precautions are needed. Get tested. Take precautions while traveling and visiting elderly and those with immunosuppressed and significant underlying conditions. Think about making plans for celebrating when the pandemic is over.

A traditional Thanksgiving feast will be comforting. Those old family recipes passed down over several generations will recall memories of past celebrations and family.

Shopping for presents will be stressful by long lines and restricted numbers in stores. A store isn't the safest place to be during a pandemic, so planning your online shopping sprees now will make your life a lot easier come December when inventories are low and shipping times increase. Many stores are planning early black Friday deals. Don't forget our local merchants, shop our small businesses.

Just like shopping for presents, planning the holiday feast at home will be different too. If you normally have huge family gatherings over the holiday weeks, unfortunately they may have to be curbed this year. Although restrictions may change over the next few months, social visits need to be limited. Keeping rituals and holidays special will create distinction from one day to the next and help bolster morale for all. This is essential for maintaining our mental health and combatting stress during the coronavirus pandemic. Consider nurturing those rituals with a dose of self-care: wear your favorite outfit, play your favorite music, dress your table with special things that you might otherwise not bother with and personal collections that bring you joy. It will be interesting to see what new traditions Covid brings about.

Why not make use of your newfound Zoom skills and hold your Christmas gatherings a little differently? Quizzes, games, Netflix sessions, family stories, reminiscing on the year that was are all perfect ways to bring 2020 to an end, and can be done remotely just as well.



However, you choose to celebrate this year, it's important to acknowledge just how tough it was to get there. You may be a little hardened, a little more resilient, a little different than how you started 2020, but that's even more reason to celebrate.

Your ancestors will be pleased if you remember to take the time to write your feeling, observations, and new traditions that you discover during this Covid time in history.

**Stay Healthy   Stay Safe   Stay Connected   Stay Home   Stay Smart**