



# THE BULLETIN

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## Genealogy Conferences—Are They Worth It?

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I spent four days in Salt Lake City in March, attending the APG Professional Management Conference. I was excited about the speakers, most considered the top presenters in the genealogy community. Thomas W. Jones was the most anticipated speaker in my opinion, followed by Judy Russell, more commonly known as the Legal Genealogist. Thomas MacEntee and Lisa Louise Cooke also presented several sessions on different aspects of social media for research as well as a business tool. Mr. Jones' presentation on "Overcoming Surprising Research Barriers" involved the audience in an interactive case study polling us for our input regarding records to search and con-

clusions to make from evidence found. He broke the research into five phases: the Question Asking phase, the Evidence-Gathering phase (broken into three or more stages), the Hypothesis-Testing phase (two kinds of tests) and the Conclusion-Accepting Phase (six criteria for acceptable conclusions). The hour long presentation showcased research strategies in a logical progression reinforcing the need to continually analysis the information extracted from the records as well as the records themselves.

As one might suspect, Judy Russell's presentation centered on using court records to "add meat to the bones" of our research. I have long been a huge proponent of the use of court records and the wonderful and unique information you

can glean from them. Judy reinforced that belief and additionally provided an in depth look at "how" court records were created and where to look for the different pieces. One of the overriding points Judy made was to have access to Black's Law Dictionary. Many of the words found in the old court records are not commonly known words to us, usually being in Latin. The Law Dictionary can quickly provide you with a definition of a word which likely will provide a better understanding of the record itself.

So was this conference worth it? To me it most definitely was. I got a lot out of the sessions and I squeezed in about 16 hours of research in the Family History Library. Heaven!

## NGS Coming to the West—Las Vegas, Nevada

If you have not had the opportunity to attend a national genealogical conference, jump on the band wagon and go to the National Genealogical Conference being held in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 8-11, 2013.

Usually these national conferences are held much farther away from us, but this year the western states got lucky. Las Vegas is within easy driving distance from Prescott which will cut down on the cost. If you don't want to spend the

money for the conference hotel, Las Vegas has so many economical options you should certainly be able to find something reasonable. Ask a couple of your geni buddies to go with you and enjoy the experience. See ya there!

## What's Happening, What's New Fold3 Offers Free Access for April

### Free Access - Fold3

For the entire month of April Fold3 is offering free access to their Confederate Records. Those records include Soldier Records, Photographs, Original War Maps, Widow Pension Files, Court Investigations, Slave Records and Lincoln Records.

If you have Confederate ancestors now is a great time to check out the records available on Fold3.

Among other records always available for free are the War of 1812 Pension Files (8% complete), South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale, 1732-1872, Town Records of South Boston, Mass., Hancock, New Hampshire and Goffstown, New Hampshire. There are over 125 million free records available on Fold3.

### New Software – Evidentia

I have come across a new piece of software called Evidentia and I think it is unique in the genealogy world. It is not a replacement for your genealogy database software, rather an add-on tool with the entire focus being on sources; how to evaluate, what information was found and the assertions or claims you made from that information and the strength of those assertions. The learning curve is not very steep, but the time involved inputting and evaluating the sources requires a dedicated researcher. I choose to start with new sources and information I found during my Salt Lake research trip. I am really excited about this software and it's ability to help me evaluate my evidence, especially on those brick walls. There is a 30

day free trial, then the software costs only \$25.00. If you are serious about your sources and the information and evidence provided by them, this software is for you. Give it a try at <http://evidentia.ed4becky.net>.

### PhotoFaceMatch – Another new tool

I have often wished for a simple, inexpensive facial recognition software to help me identify people in old photographs. At RootsTech, I discovered a brand new website called PhotoFaceMatch.com. This free site uses facial recognition software created for security agencies around the world in a brand new and exciting way: to help identify those unidentified photographs we all have. I am still investigating this but give it a look at <http://photofacematch.com>. Remember this is brand new and so it has some bugs.



Send a short two or three paragraph bio and surnames researched to the Bulletin editor to be included in the next issue

## FGS Conference—Ft. Wayne Library

This is the time to start thinking about genealogy conferences and which ones you want to go to. The FGS, Federation of Genealogical Societies national conference will be held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Aug 21-24, 2013. The big lure of Ft. Wayne, is the Allen County Public Library which houses probably the second largest genealogy collection after the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. Going to the conference a day or two early and staying a day or two longer

enables you to spend some quality time in the library doing research. It is definitely a win win situation. To help you in preparation and execution of research in this library, certified genealogist, Harold Henderson has prepared a free, downloadable research guide for the library'. You can find the document [here](#). Preparation is always the key to a successful research trip to any library. By focusing on specific questions, you can prepare a plan of attack and by us-

ing Mr. Henderson's guide you will be more familiar with the library and its holdings before you go, saving time for valuable research. Since it is a pdf file you can upload it to your Dropbox folder so you can access it even while you are on the road and in your hotel room. If you have Indiana, Illinois, Iowa or other Midwest state ancestors, don't miss out on this great opportunity to do some research and experience some great break-out sessions.

## President's Message

Spring is upon us, I hope you are all planning genealogical vacations; to possibly attend one of the major conferences coming soon. The Southern California Jamboree in LA in June, The National Genealogical Society conference in Las Vegas in May or the August Federation of Genealogy Societies conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. You should take advantage of these great opportunities. If a major conference is not in your plans, what about a family reunion, visiting relatives to ask those questions that need answers, a courthouse, a cemetery or a family homestead.

We have just finished the quarter with three really good programs. January featured John Thorne talking about the Rapalje Family of New Amsterdam and gave a lot of good history of New Amsterdam. The February helping/brick wall session was very well attended. I hope some of you got ideas of where you might go to solve your problems. In March Barbara Wich gave a very interesting talk regarding immigration across the Atlan-

tic Ocean.

The new quarter will bring three more exciting programs, starting in April with Julie Pavri talking about Preserving Family History. At the May meeting Sue Kissel will be talking on Naturalization. In June Sharon Atkins will be talking about using Social Media for Genealogy. If you are not currently using Social Media (Blogs, Facebook, Twitter) this is the opportunity to learn how and what it can do for your genealogical research.

The Society runs on volunteers and now is your time to get involved. As long as we have volunteers we will have a good society, but if individuals don't help out we cannot succeed. Your part in helping the society is vital for the success of the organization. One member Lisa Staltari has stepped up and volunteered to be membership chair. But, we still need to fill a couple of other board positions. First and most importantly editor of The Bulletin, this position requires writing skills, computer skills to produce The Bulletin and knowledge of the current trends and hap-

pening in genealogy. The second position currently available is Historian. This person will take over a set of records that have been very well organized by the current historian Doris Egge and will only need to be maintained with current additions. There are others activities that will be needing assistance, managing The Viewerie display at the Prescott Public Library in October and help with various aspects of the Workshop in October. Please contact me at [rjunkins@cableone.net](mailto:rjunkins@cableone.net) if you can help in any way with these or other activities.

As your President, I want to take this time to publically acknowledge and thank Brenda Sell membership chair, Doris Egge historian and Jo Arnspiger Bulletin editor for the outstanding job and support they have contributed to the Society. They will be greatly missed.

I must also thank all the rest of the board, because I couldn't do my job or run the society without all of you. Thank you!

Raylene Morrow Junkins,  
President



**Monthly  
Meetings  
4th Saturday of  
The Month  
1:30-3:00 pm  
Come See What  
Is Happening  
With NAGS**

## Workshops and Learning Opportunities with Sharon Atkins

NAGS member Sharon Atkins continues to provide ongoing genealogy workshops at both the NAGS library room at Prescott Valley library and the Prescott Adult Center. The workshop "Not Your Grandmother's Genealogy" will be presented May 9<sup>th</sup> and July

11<sup>th</sup> at the Prescott Valley Library and is a free workshop. This is for those genealogist just getting started or coming back from a long absence. A second event, a five day workshop entitled "Genealogy Greenhorns" will be held at the Prescott Adult Center, June 10-14

from 9:30 am – 11:00 am. The cost for this week long workshop is \$30 for members and \$55 for non-members (of the adult center). Space is limited so sign up early. For more information contact Sharon at: [Ssatkins@its-all-relatives.com](mailto:Ssatkins@its-all-relatives.com).

## Be A Writer!! Get The Story on Paper!!

Sometimes the hardest thing to do in genealogy is to write "The Story." Here are some resources that may help you in this really important part of your family history. The Internet is alive with blogs about everything and can sometimes be overwhelming so here are a few I think provide better than average helpful writing resources.

1. [Your Story Coach](#)
2. [Writing Your Way to the Past](#)
3. [The Armchair Genealogist](#)

From my personal experience here are some tips.

The very first one that any writing mentor will tell you is "just write it." Don't stop to line edit or change a word or whatever. Just get it down on paper. You can always revise and edit later, add to or remove parts but you can't do anything until you write it. That being said, it is important to know what you are going to write. Is it going to be a whole book or short stories? Is it creative non-fiction or is it a personal essay; a biographical sketch or a memoir? Once you have the vehicle, the format, then you will have a better understanding of what infor-

mation you need to have easily accessible. Social research is a vital piece of your story, without it you cannot write an engaging and accurate history of your ancestor regardless of the format you choose. For example, if you are writing about your family's migration west during the early 1800s it is vital you have a clear understanding of travel routes and the means utilized. Did they go by covered wagon, or perhaps a steamship. Knowing this and adding the detail will make a story your family wants to read. Let's start writing!

## Our Library Room at the Prescott Valley Library

NAGS has adopted a Library Acquisition Program to augment our current library holdings with more current publications. Lee Campbell is the head of the Library Committee and would appreciate any suggestions for possible books to purchase. These books can be for any number of

research areas including self-help books. Look at your wish list and see if there is a book that would be of value to our library. Send your suggestions to Lee.

A big thank you goes out to our library volunteers, Brenda Sell, Sharon Atkins, Bruce McKeeman, Jac Morse, Lee Campbell and

new volunteer Valene Woolridge. Come on out to the library on Thursday afternoons between 1-3 pm to get some personal one on one help with your research and check out our holdings. You never know what you might find.

## Links in the Newsletter

WVGS Calendar 2013	<a href="http://www.azwvgs.org/membershipmtg.asp">http://www.azwvgs.org/membershipmtg.asp</a>
Your Story Coach blog	<a href="http://www.yourstorycoach.com/">http://www.yourstorycoach.com/</a>
Writing Your Way to the Past	<a href="http://julietarr.blogspot.com/2011/08/4-resources-for-writing-your-family.html">http://julietarr.blogspot.com/2011/08/4-resources-for-writing-your-family.html</a>
The Armchair Genealogist	<a href="http://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/">http://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/</a>
FamilySearch Record Collection	<a href="https://familysearch.org">https://familysearch.org</a>
Allen County Public Library	<a href="http://www.midwestroots.net/wp-">http://www.midwestroots.net/wp-</a>
Evidentia	<a href="http://evidentia.ed4becky.net">http://evidentia.ed4becky.net</a>
Fold3—free records	<a href="http://go.fold3.com/records/free/">http://go.fold3.com/records/free/</a>



**Want to get involved?**  
**Volunteer !!**  
**NAGS needs a Newsletter Editor and Historian for the 2013-2014 year**

New U.S. Record Collections in FamilySearch  
Jan. 1—Mar. 31, 2013  
State Census and Death Records

**State Censuses—  
Indexed:**

**Florida** 1885  
**Florida** 1935  
**Florida** 1945  
**Massachusetts** 1865  
**New York** 1875  
**South Dakota** 1905  
**South Dakota** 1915  
**South Dakota** 1925  
**Wisconsin** 1855  
**Wisconsin** 1875  
**Wisconsin** 1895

**Death Records—  
Indexed**

**Alabama**, Deaths, 1908-1974  
**Alabama**, Deaths and Burials, 1881-1952  
**Arizona**, Deaths and Burials, 1910-1911; 1933-1994  
**Connecticut**, Deaths and Burials, 1772-1934  
**Delaware**, Death Records, 1855-1961  
**District of Columbia** Deaths and Burials, 1840-1964

**Florida**, Deaths and Burials, 1900-1921

**Florida**, Deaths, 1877-1939

**Georgia**, Deaths, 1914-1927  
**Hawaii**, Deaths and Burials, 1862-1919

**Idaho**, Deaths and Burials, 1907-1965

**Kansas**, Deaths and Burials, 1885-1930

**Louisiana**, Deaths Index, 1850-1875, 1894-1956

**Maine**, Deaths and Burials, 1841-1910

**Maryland**, Deaths and Burials, 1877-1992

**Massachusetts**, Death Index, 1970-2003

**Michigan**, Deaths, 1867-1897

**New Jersey** Deaths and Burials, 1720-1988

**New Mexico**, Deaths and Burials, 1788-1798; 1838-1955

**New York** Deaths and Burials, 1795-1952

**Ohio**, Deaths, 1908-1953

**Oregon**, Death Index, 1903-1998

**Oregon**, Deaths and Burials,

1903-1947

**Rhode Island**, Deaths and Burials, 1802-1950

**South Carolina**, Deaths, 1944-1955

**Tennessee**, Death Records, 1914-1955

**Texas**, Deaths, 1977-1986

**Texas**, Death Index, 1964-1998

**Texas**, Deaths and Burials, 1903-1973

**Utah** Death Certificates, 1904-1956

**Utah**, Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946

**Virginia**, Deaths and Burials, 1853-1912

**Washington**, Death Certificates, 1907-1960

**General Records—  
Indexed**

**United States** Social Security Death Index

**United States**, Russians to America Index, 1834-1897

**United States**, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications



**The Prescott Family  
History Center  
provides research  
help and access to  
Fold3, Ancestry,  
Godfrey Library and  
FindMyPast**

These are just a glimpse of the more than 150 record collections added to FamilySearch in the last three months. The ones listed above are as stated indexed which makes looking for your ancestor easier. Many of records not listed here but still new collections, are probate records. While most are not indexed the records provide a wealth of information. With

a place of death and a date of death searching in the probate records becomes much quicker. Within the records available find the appropriate county and year range. Frequently probate books have indexes at the beginning of the record books giving a page number for a named individual.

I have not provided links within the newsletter. Those

are available through the FamilySearch website.

Be aware the collections listed above are NOT ALL of the records for the particular place and time. As we know there is no great huge repository for all records so we continue to check the online resources with the eternal hope of ultimately finding mention of our long log ancestors.

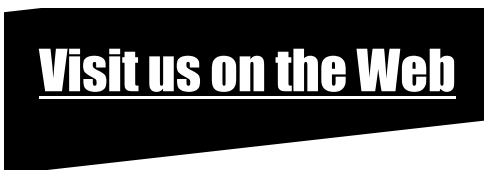


**NORTHERN ARIZONA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Primary Business Address  
PO Box 695  
Prescott, AZ 86305  
email: jarnspiger@cableone.net



**NAGS**



Website: <http://nags.weebly.com>

Check out Northern Arizona Genealogical Society on Facebook

**This Society has been formed and incorporated for charitable purposes including activities (stated in greater detail in Article IV of the Society Articles of Incorporation):**

- 1. To foster the education of the public in areas of genealogy, genealogical research and family history preparations through Society meetings, workshops, programs, demonstrations and classes open to the general public.**
- 2. To publish a quarterly Society newsletter.**
- 3. To maintain a collection of genealogical and historical research materials, obtained through donations or by purchases. These materials may be maintained by the Society at related nonprofit organizations and/or public libraries.**
- 4. To collaborate with other not for profit organizations and/or educational institutions to conduct activities that will further interest in genealogy.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Bylaws of the Northern Arizona Genealogical Society, Article 2: Purposes

## Calendar of Events

To see additional out of state events check out the [AZGAB Site](#)

<p>Month <b>APRIL</b></p> <p>9th @6pm APG Webinar –free Research Plans</p> <p>27th @1:30 NAGS Monthly Meeting Preserving Family History—Julie Pavri</p>	<p>Month <b>JUNE</b></p> <p>1st Thursday FHL –German Research Webinar</p> <p>7-9th SCGS Jamboree Burbank, CA</p> <p>22nd@1:30 NAGS Monthly Meeting Social Media—Sharon Atkins</p>
<p>Month <b>MAY</b></p> <p>8-11th NGS Conference Las Vegas NV</p> <p>Ongoing Legacy FT Webi- Online</p> <p>1st Thursday FHL—German Research webinar</p> <p>25th@1:30 NAGS Monthly Meeting Naturalization—Sue Kis-</p>	