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NAGS-ZINE---Your Northern Arizona Genealogical Society's Newsletter



Editor's Message:

Welcome to the new version of our society's bulletin now entitled Nags-zine ! This is a salute to all the ever- changing technology that is benefitting genealogical research and genealogists world-wide. In this, and future editions, we will attempt to keep our members up to date about the society's plans and programs, and to provide tips and education about genealogical research.

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Staltari, and I have been doing serious genealogical research for the past 4 years and have been doing genealogy for over a decade. My professional background has included sales/writing/teaching, and I am now a full-time writer and mom and wife here in Prescott, Arizona. My particular areas of expertise include French and English

Canada and Northern New England. I look forward to writing and expanding this NAGS-EZINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JANUARY 2014

It is with great pleasure and appreciation to Lisa Staltari for assuming the editorship of the NAGS Quarterly. We are sorry you missed two issues, but are very glad to be back on line again. We had some very good programs over the summer with August being the dark month this year. The workshop in October was very successful with about 165 paid attendees. I surveyed the group in opening session and found nearly half had never attended a workshop before. We need you as members. The workshop offered four tracks of seven classes in each track, with a wide variety of topics being covered. There was also a delicious lunch of homemade vegetable beef stew, homemade bread and cookies. The freebie table was nearly empty by the end of the day. My thanks to all who helped make the workshop a great success.

November was a round table problem solving discussion. There were some interesting questions and answers, and some successes reported.

December was the Christmas luncheon at Stoneridge Country Club. This year's topic was "Visions of Sugar Plums" featuring pictures of us and our ancestors as children. There were many very interesting pictures with great stories associated with them. My thanks to Nancy Miller for putting the slide show together; I know it was a lot of work. Also, thanks to Carol Hubert for making the arrangements and decorating the hall.

We are going to encore the slide shows from past Christmas programs, before the regular meetings so come at 1:30 to enjoy the shows. We are also going to use the social time for question and answers, so if you have a problem bring it to bounce off the group and hopefully we will be able to give you some suggestions on where to look for your answers.

We have some good programs coming up and they are listed elsewhere in the quarterly.

I had the pleasure of attending two national conferences this summer, the National Genealogical Society conference in Las Vegas in May and the Federation of Genealogical Society Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana in August. If you ever can find the time and the funds to attend a national conference take advantage of the opportunity. They are well worth the effort and maybe you can sneak in some research along the way. Next year's NGS conference is in Richmond, Virginia (great research site and only 100 miles from Washington, D.C.) and FGS conference is in San Antonio, Texas.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



One of the things that has always amazed me is how much information is contained in the Census reports. The Census reports are published every ten years, and list a variety of important information that can be helpful for genealogists. For the U.S, we now have Censuses all the way through 1940. The Federal Census has been available since 1790, but only since 1850 have we have truly detailed census reports with names of family members, and since 1880 the relationship between family members living in the same house. With each federal census we have different information that we can use to try to "track" our ancestors. Early in my genealogical studies, I was working on a tree for a gentleman who was born in New York, and ended up Nebraska in the late 1880s. He made his way through Illinois and various states, and finally made it to Nebraska. It lost a wife in Illinois and then remarried in Nebraska. How could I be sure this was the same fellow? I looked down at the Census report and saw that his occupation was Minister. Hmmm. I thought. Well, you just don't just "become" a minister do you? There had to be some sort of career path, right? Sure enough, he turned out to be a Baptist Minister who had been called to this small town in Nebraska. By checking each Census report from 1850 until 1910 (he died in 1914) I was able to verify that this was indeed the same Cornelius I was looking for--in each census report he was listed as a minister, clergyman, pastor etc. One has to remember that having such an occupation, rather than farmer, would have been quite a distinguishing mark in a small community. They might not get the age, name, place of birth right, but doing the Census report for the minister was something out of the ordinary.

[illegible]

The 1870 Census in Illinois:

133	136	Ford Cornelius	46	M	N	Minister	✓	250	A.G.										
		Harriet	46	F	N	Keeping house			Her										
		George E.	18	M	N	at home			Occ.									1	
		Willie L.	13	M	N	"			Occ.									1	
		Borroughs	4	M	N	"			A.G.									1	
		black E.	3	M	N	"			Occ.										

The 1880 Census in Nebraska:

116	124	Ford Cornelius R.	M	M	56		1	berquissant	✓
		- Jennie E.Y.	M	F	45	wife	1	Keeping House	
		- William Y.	M	M	22	son	1	Laborer	✓
		- black E.	M	M	12	son	1		
		Cornelius Sarah	M	F	29	daughter	1	Servant	✓

These census reports, in addition to other information, helped confirm that this was the Cornelius I was looking for. As you can see sometimes, the names are difficult to read, the ages are off, but the occupation truly is the constant. The same is also true in the reverse---someone who is a farmer doesn't become a Doctor in the next census, then a factory worker in the next (although I suppose this could happen!). It is, to quote my father, "everything is possible, but what you have to look at in life is what's probable". What we want to see is a picture of that person's life--so knowing the occupation leads us not only to confirm that this is the individual we are seeking, but helps truly flesh out the details. If someone is an engineer they had to go to college, perhaps do a thesis, joined a society, perhaps appeared in the newspapers. Sometimes when I am looking for a female ancestor, I look to see if there was an occupation (particularly before 1930) If I see a teacher, librarian, nurse, I have an inkling that maybe this was a "career woman" and didn't end up getting married. Or if she did, she could be older. If she had an occupation, then she might more likely appear in the newspapers with her first and last names (rather than Mrs. J.A. Something or other).

The information found on the census is a starting point--not the end by any means. But an important clue for further research. **So**, what did **your** ancestor **do** for a living?

Submitted by Lisa Staltari

Genealogy

Grins



Genealogist's Disease

WARNING: Genealogy Pox
(Very contagious to adults)

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is- the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

Taken from: Ancestors[®] Unlimited Quarterly, publication of South-west Nebraska Genealogical So-

GEO-GENEALOGY *(Submitted by Lisa Staltari)*

Each month I will focus on one (or more) states. As we all know, when we get truly involved in a state, it almost feels like we live there. However, most of us have never even been to the state we are researching. The most important thing to do is get out a map first of the state, then one of the counties. Once you have familiarized yourself with the "lay of the land" so to speak, you can truly begin to research with a little bit more insight. Once you have zeroed in on the county, you should then google information about when this county was formed. If your period of research falls before this formation, you will need to always remember what district your county was "born from" and research accordingly. You will also need to keep in mind when your state was born. Finally (and not) lastly, you will need to look deeply into the town you are researching. When was it incorporated? Was it ever part of another town? This happens so frequently that many times we can believe our ancestors moved incessantly--they didn't. The counties and states were moving constantly--and most of the time, the farmers just keep on ploughing--never knowing that a century later, we would be trying to track them down.

A simple google search for the county map should suffice for the beginning I would note at least two counties on either side. Another excellent idea is to use wikipedia or any other general information(historical) site. Using the current state you are researching, try to understand the state, its history, its topography, and even its weather cycles. Were there any earthquakes, tornados or floods? Note these down, as they may prove essential to understanding your ancestors and the lives they lived.

1. A brief examination of the state
2. Verify the map as it exists today. Familiarize yourself with some of the counties you are working on.
3. Google past maps. (An example of this is "Alabama 1840 county map")When the google page comes up, click on images and see what is presented. Sometimes there will even be a website dedicated to this evolution of county lines.

There is an excellent site called <http://www.mapofus.org/> which contains all the information you will need on each state, in addition to when counties were formed. NOTE: When I first started doing genealogy in many different states, I created a separate binder with county maps and other info for each state, and created dividers to make it easier to have all the info at my fingertips. Even though I am a highly digitized girl, there is something about staring at a printed map with all the counties listed that helps "keep it real"!

For those of you who have really got the technology down, installing and using Google Earth is another wonderful way to live up to the maxim "Geography is Destiny"!



A "LEAVE NO SOURCE UNTURNED" DISCOVERY

Submitted by Carol Hubert, NAGS Hospitality Chair

Last November I had the opportunity to do genealogy research at the Library of Virginia, the state library and archives in Richmond, VA. My goal for the visit was to uncover a document laying out the grounds for the divorce in 1784 of Lucy Greenhill and George Washington (President Washington's nephew, named after him). In 1805 my husband's g-g-g-g-grandfather, Col. Peter Randolph, had left his wife and children in Virginia, and his position as County Clerk of Nottoway Co., and had moved to the area of Athens, Georgia (Clarke Co.). A very comprehensive genealogical history of the Randolph family had said this was for "unknown reasons," but a few years ago a descendant followed Col. Peter to Georgia. He discovered the courthouse documents that clarified that Peter had gone there to join Lucy Greenhill Washington--his wife's sister!--with whom he had an illegitimate daughter. I was convinced that George had divorced Lucy on grounds of adultery, citing the illegitimate daughter and charging Col. Peter as "correspondent," and I was eager to learn the juicy details!

At that time in Virginia divorce could be granted only by an act of the Legislature; I was determined to find that piece of legislation. (I had already searched what I thought were relevant courthouse records in Georgia and Amelia Co., VA with no luck.) With the help of a professional genealogist I found the records of the Virginia Legislature for 1784 . . . nothing there. Library staff had no suggestions. My helper said, "Wait until Mr. _____ (the head of research) comes on duty; he can find anything." When I spotted him at the research desk, we descended on him with the problem. He produced a source even the professional didn't know about . . . but still no luck.

Casting about, I finally said, "You know, Lucy's mother was a Claiborne (very prominent colonial Virginia family)" "Oh," he said, "there's a very good history of the Claibornes," and he sent for it from the closed stacks. Book in hand, in less than five minutes I found the citation for the "separation." There was no divorce--why no one could find a legal document for it. George and Lucy had simply drawn up an agreement between them that neither would ever again consider the other their spouse, and they went their separate ways. The agreement was recorded in a deed book in Amelia Co., not a source I had looked at there. No matter how scandalous the situation may have been in 1784, it had effectively been kept in the family, without becoming public news through legislation. George married again, apparently quite legitimately. Though Col. Peter did his best to claim Lucy as a wife, saying in his will that he had "intermarried" with her in 1784, after his death his still-living legitimate wife successfully claimed his entire estate and cut Lucy and the daughter out completely. The daughter married well and had descendants I hope to trace. But the lessons for me were (1) ***make educated guesses but not assumptions, until you have proof***, and (2) ***pay attention to family connections no matter how remote they seem.***

SPOTLIGHT ON: ARKANSAS



I will be attempting to list some of my favorite websites for each state in upcoming issues. (Please email me with suggestions!) I am beginning with Arkansas as I have spent quite a bit of time there researching my husband's Arkansas roots(!). Arkansas is not an easy state as records are sparse and not many have been digitized. In addition to the usual websites such www.familysearch.org and ancestry.com, here are few truly specific to Arkansas and/or the south

Here are some of my favorite Arkansas websites:

- 1.. <http://www.ark-ives.com/>
2. <http://www.arkansasties.com/>
3. <http://www.argenweb.net/>
4. <http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/index.html>
5. https://www.ark.org/doh_dcs/
6. <http://arkansasgravestones.org/>
7. <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

For a fee:

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/certificatesVitalRecords/Pages/DeathRecords.aspx>



PINTEREST TIP OF THE MONTH

(For those of you who haven't yet discovered, Pinterest, I urge you to sign up, type in genealogy, and see just how quickly you get addicted!)

got genealogy.com's

GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

92 Questions

"SPELLING DOESN'T COUNT"
1 Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

ASSUME NOTHING
2 Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that:

- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestor's life events were recorded
- ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

USE DISCRETION
3 Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER
4 Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so you always cite your sources.

MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE
5 It's okay to state that someone was born "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct"? They all are.

IF UNSURE, SAY SO
6 Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE
7 Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE
8 The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH
9 No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's

researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

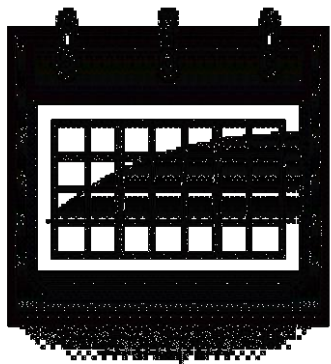
DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU
10 Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.

DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD
11 DNA is just one of many possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should **always** be used in concert with other sources.

ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"
12 You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the internet. Get over it.

SPREAD THE WORD
You have our permission to use/publish these Golden Rules as much as you like. Just give us credit for them, okay?

GotGenealogy.com
PO Box 10805
Oakland, CA 94610-0805
(510) 333-6933



JANUARY-APRIL 2014

GENEALOGY CALENDER OF

EVENTS

Saturday, January 25, 2014
Northern Arizona Genealogical Society
Monthly Meeting
Family History Center
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (1:30 pm for networking and socializing)
Topic: Ancestry--Beyond the Basics
Speaker: Valene Woolridge

Fridays 1/31 to 2/14
Surfing the Net for your Ancestors
Yavapai College
Teacher: Peggy Magee
www.yc.edu/commed

Tuesday Feb 4, 2014
6:30 to 8:30
Family History Center
Prescott Legacy Users Group (PLUG)
Teacher: Nancy Miller

February 6-8, 2014
Roots Tech
Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://rootstech.org/>

February 8, 2014
Tulsa Family History Fair
Tulsa, Oklahoma
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tulsa-family-history-fair-tickets-9277602559>

February 18, 2014
MyHeritage Webinar— Creative Ways to Showcase your Family Tree
<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/748990511>

Fridays 2/21 to 4/4
More of Tracing Your Roots
Yavapai College
Teacher: Peggy Magee

February 22, 2014
Redding California Family History Faire 2014
Redding, California
<http://www.reddingfamilyhistorycenter.org/>

Saturday, February 22, 2014
West Valley Genealogical Society
<http://www.azwvgs.org>, click events/activities/seminar or call 623-933-4945.

Saturday, February 22, 2014
Northern Arizona Genealogical Society
Monthly Meeting
Family History Center
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (1:30 pm for networking and socializing)
Topic: Googling for Genealogy
Speaker: Sue Williams

March 11-19, 2014
West Valley Genealogical Society
Salt Lake City Research Trip
Visit: <http://www.azwvgs.org> click events/activities/Salt Lake City to view complete details regarding trip cost and travel options or call 623-933-4945.

Saturday, March 22, 2014

**Northern Arizona Genealogical Society
Monthly Meeting**

Family History Center

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (1:30 pm for networking and socializing)

Topic: National Archives

Speaker: Barbara Wich

Saturday, April 12, 2014

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Albuquerque Main Library Auditorium
(Lower Level)*

Topics:

-Using Federal Records Online

-Researching Colonial Wars Ancestor

-Military Pensions

-Researching a war of 1812 Ancestor

Speaker: *Craig Roberts Scott*

Craig Roberts Scott, MA, Certified Genealogist and President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., is a nationally known genealogical researcher and expert on the records of the National Archives, specializing in problem-solving and military records. He is author of a number of books and articles, lecturer, director of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and much more. See his web site at **www.genealogybrickwall.com**.

Pre-Registration is required!

Details: www.abqgen.org

Contact Mike Dietz at mdietz@wildblue.net or (505) 384-4133 with any questions

Fridays, April 18th & April 25

Finding and Evaluating Genealogical Evidence

Yavapai College

Teacher: Peggy Magee

www.yc.edu/commed

Saturday, April 26

Northern Arizona Genealogical Society

Monthly Meeting

Family History Center

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (1:30 pm for networking and socializing)

Topic: Archaic Terms

Format: Interactive Workshop (details to follow)





Membership Information

Northern Arizona Genealogical Society (NAGS)

(Please Print)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/St/Zip: _____

Genealogy Experience Level:

Beginner: _____ Intermediate: _____ Advanced: _____ Professional: _____

Please list the surnames you are researching, along with locations and time periods:

Example: Bowen Erie County, PA 1840-1890

Please check any committee(s) on which you might be willing to serve:

AZGAB Liaison: ____ Cemetery: ____ Historian: ____ Hospitality: ____ Library: ____

Would you be willing to teach a class at a seminar, meeting or workshop? _____

If yes, please list your topics of choice: _____

Do we have your permission to include your phone and/or e-mail on our membership roster to be distributed on request to members only? _____

Please mail this form and your check for annual membership (January – December)

\$15 for individual membership; \$25 for family membership

Payable to:

Northern Arizona Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 695, Prescott, AZ 86302