



The Bulletin

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



Editor's Message:

I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful days of Summer! The 4th of July is of course our national holiday—and I was inspired to write about that Great Revolution. In this issue, I have written four different pieces which I truly hope will help your research. I so enjoyed researching and thinking about this issue. We also have two contributors this month—Barbara Wich has written a fabulous piece about her trip the the National Genealogical Society Conference in May! We are also very grateful to Normalene Zeeman of the Prescott Public Library for her excellent piece on the Gale Genealogy Connect service offered through the library. As promised last month, I have a report on my trip the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree in June.

Here's to Summer Genealogy trips, longer hours of daylight to do research and more free time to pursue our genealogy mysteries!

Happy Tree Climbing!

Lisa Elvin Staltari

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Honoring the Past



Embracing the Future

President's Message --July 2015

Dear Members,

We have had an exceptional round of speakers for this quarter, starting with Margaret Dewey's presentation at our April meeting on Arizona Adoptees and Birth Families. Her recounting of her challenges and successes was truly inspirational! In May, Betsy Bykerk, the Regent for the local D.A.R. Chapter gave us a good synopsis of various types of lineage societies, and her charm and graciousness were delightful to all who attended. And last, but not least, our very recent speakers, Karen McCracken and Gary Hamby from the Yavapai County Records and Research, gave us wonderful information on resources we have right here in Prescott. Thank you so much to all our speakers for their generosity of time and energy to our Society.

I assumed the Presidency on June 1st, along with Carol Hubert as Treasurer and Sue Williams as Secretary, and we are delighted to welcome three new board members: *Pattie Curran*, Hospitality, *Cheryl Moreno*, handling Publicity and *Martha Welch*, who will take over Membership. Welcome and thank you for stepping up! I would also like to extend a special and heartfelt thank you to Sharon Atkins, Marilyn Day, Raylene Junkins, Sue Kissel and Barb Wich who have each in their own way helped me through this transition.

We will not be having a meeting in July, as is our custom, and will return on August 22nd with a new location, which was discussed and voted on at our last Board Meeting of June 10th. The Prescott Gateway Mall has graciously donated a conference room for us to use for our meetings. The Conference room is next to the Administration offices, at the end of the hall (the corner of Bath and Body Works). This is a much larger facility which will permit us to grow and reach out to the rest of the communities in Prescott Valley and beyond. They will also have available for us all that we need in the way of tables and chairs, whiteboards etc. etc. We will also be able to benefit from the beverage and food vendors for our meetings.

Our goal for 2015 and beyond is simple. To make certain that NAGS remains viable and as up to date as possible. I have personally thrown out a number of 100 new members by this time next year. While I know this is a VERY lofty goal--I believe in reaching for the stars!

Following our board meeting in August, I hope to have more wonderful things to share with you all. Until then, I wish you and your family a wonderful Summer!

All the best

Lisa Elvin Staltari
President

THERE'S SOMETHING HAPPENING HERE...

What was all the fuss about ? by Lisa Elvin Staltari



When you think about the American Revolution, what's the first thing that comes to mind? The Declaration of Independence? Paul Revere's ride? The Boston Tea Party? As we celebrate the 239th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration this July, it gave me pause. As genealogists when we are seeking our missing ancestors, we go on a journey with them. That journey means we need to time travel to truly understand the life they led and the choices they made.

An understanding of history means we begin to understand that these "Rebels" were not exactly hoodlums who just somehow had had enough. It was at a minimum a 12 year build up of grievances. Ask any American and they will recite "No taxation without representation.". I am pretty certain this has been ingrained in the DNA of the Descendants of these brave men! But was it truly the taxes that created the revolution? Or was it something else?

History teaches us that nothing is black or white. Life is lived in the middle. Let us ponder for a moment the people who lived in those colonies and at that time. Think about the year 1763. That was the year of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War. The cost of this war would haunt the colonies for years to come. Now think about the fact that less than 150 years before, the first colonists landed on that famous Rock. From 1620 to 1700, the migration to America filled its land with independent- minded and freedom- seeking people. People who wanted to determine for themselves what they would believe or do. People who were not afraid of taking the road less travelled. And finally, people brave to be brave enough to create their own country, in this "NEW England." These first inhabitants and their strength of will, would fuel this Revolution 150 years later. It was many of the descendants of these same people who took up arms. The stories of their grandparents, great grandparents and great- great grandparents and their struggles would have been repeated time and again. It was truly in the bloodlines of these Patriots to have the strength of will to defy authority and carve out their true path. I do not believe the American Revolution would have occurred if it weren't for the history that these men were a part of. The issue of self-determination, more than taxes, was the true root of the issue. Taxes were only the larger symptom of a greater reality.

Here are just *some* of the issues they needed to deal with:

The Grenville Act (1764) imposed duties on sugar, coffee, textiles, increasing the costs of goods to the Colonists. This act is more commonly referred to as the Sugar Act. What was the response? Businesses, beginning in Boston and later spreading to the rest of the county, essentially refuse to import British goods.

The Currency Act of 1764. British Parliament effectively ends the Colonists ability to print their own currency, thereby making certain that the colonists could not be financially self-sufficient. The reason for this was due to the British merchants who were getting essentially shortchanged by the colonies wildly fluctuating currency (A dollar in Rhode Island was not necessarily a Dollar in Massachusetts to give you a basic example). Now everyone had to use the British currency.



The Stamp Act was the first actual tax on the colonists. What was the response? The Colonists refused to use stamps and all business basically stopped. This one act also prompted Patrick Henry in Virginia to begin the Virginia Resolutions and the discussion of *No taxation without representation*. The House of Burgess in Virginia adopts some of his views--with the biggest one being the Right to Self Government. Petitions against the Stamp Act are formed in at least 9 states and a resolution to King George is formed at the Stamp Act Congress. The Stamp Act was repealed in 1766.

The Quartering Act of 1765 provision was intended to make certain that the King's Soldiers were housed in Barracks, and if none could be found, would need to be housed in places of businesses. And if there were still not enough places to house them, the Colonists needed to come up with temporary houses. Essentially the Crown was saying to the Colonists, We don't care what you do or how much it costs you, just take care of. This is the Back Story of the Boston Massacre of 1770. British soldiers being housed in temporary tents in Boston were far too close to agitated Colonists. The ensuing murder of 5 Colonists was the result.

After the repeal of the **Stamp Act** and a lessening of the **Sugar Act**, Britain retaliates with the **Declaratory Act** which stated that the Parliament's authority was the same in America as in Britain. Essentially, this meant that Parliament way saying to those colonists, " It's o.k. we'll take away that nasty Stamp and Sugar Act but we want to make sure you know who's boss." One can only imagine how THAT went over.

The Tea Act (1773) is the Act that Americans are most familiar with. The tax on tea was more than a tax. It was meant to create a precedent (after the repeal of so many other acts)that Britain could indeed tax the colonists however--and whenever-- they wanted. The reason for this tax was actually to salvage the East Indian Tea Company ---the British saw a way to regain some of the money they had lost. The Colonists, by this time, were wise to the British game. There was only one answer--don't let that tea come into the colonies, and make certain that it can never be sold to even one colonist. Their creative solution? Throw the tea in the river, and throw the biggest party you could have (in a manner of speaking). On December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party, as it would come to be known, would truly create the spark that resulted in the American Revolution, now only 16 months away.



The British retaliated in 1774 with the **Coercive Acts** which Americans immediately called the **Intolerable Acts**. These Acts were aimed at Massachusetts--but by then Patriots knew that this was just the beginning. In these Acts, Britain sought to make certain that the Colony of Massachusetts knew who was Boss. They closed the Port of Boston until the East India Company's debts were paid (*The Boston Port Act*), they essentially made Massachusetts a royal outpost, rather than an independent and self governing colony (*The Massachusetts Government Act*), permitted British officers to be tried not in the colonies but in Britain so they might have a fair trial (*The Administration of Justice Act*). This essentially meant that British officers were above the Colonies justice system and could (in the words of Benjamin Franklin) "get away with Murder" and finally, the *Quartering Act of 1774* which strengthened previous Quartering Acts and permitted Colonial Governors the power to house British Soldiers wherever they saw fit.

Is it any wonder that these descendants of free and peace seeking people would have said "Enough"? The British did try to remove many of the taxes and seek a compromise but by then it was too late. By early 1775, Massachusetts was declared in a state of rebellion. And, by April 18th and 19th, the famous "shot heard round the world" was fired at Lexington and Concord. The Revolution had finally arrived.

As we can see, it was not just the taxes the Colonists reacted to. They had spent the last century building their own infrastructure and their own system of living. The high handed manner of Parliament and the feeling that they were being used as pawns by a foreign government that cared little for their values or way of life had become their battle cry.

In the end, these Patriots, like their ancestors before them, rejected England and set their sails for a safe Harbor where they could determine for themselves what was in their best interests.





Gale Genealogy Connect @ Your Library

Normalene Zeeman, Librarian

Prescott Public Library

Sometimes Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest are an awesome combination; but, sometimes you just need something more. Gale Genealogy Connect might be exactly what you need to fill in the gaps. The Gale Company calls this one-stop shopping, as their search interface searches all documents, some of which are still new enough that they are unavailable from other online sources, such as www.books.google.com. With every word being searchable, this is a powerful tool at your fingertips.

You can get to this resource from your local library webpage or more easily, start at the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records page, (<http://www.azlibrary.gov/dazl>). Click on Online Reference Resources Scroll down to Genealogy Connect and click (Includes hundreds of authoritative resources formerly available only in print or on CD-ROM.) Enter your Arizona zip code and hit Login.

This takes you to the Genealogy Connect primary search page where you can see some of the new titles added to their collection listed by collection subjects. Some of these books are still relatively new, such as *Settlers of Maryland, 1679 – 1783, Consolidated edition in two volumes* (2011) by Peter Wilson Coldham. Using this first search box, you can search by Keyword, Subject or Entire Document. It will search 164,800 documents and return results, which can then be sorted by relevance, document title, publication date or publication title.

Some of the features and benefits are: **unlimited simultaneous 24/7 access**; seamless cross-searching across collections; more than 1,500 authoritative resources from Genealogical.com and Clearfield; ability to print, save or e-mail articles and multi-page viewing, thus recreating the book experience.

Content bundles allow you to download specific title lists on common subjects of interest, such as: Getting Started; Essentials; Colonial and Revolutionary; Immigration; Royal and Noble; Native American and New England; each content bundle allows you to download the title list for that subject. For example, if you click on Immigration, then click on the list for 17th and 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers you get 1291 items with title, type of publication, start date, end date, city and country.

Gale Genealogy Connect is a reputable and comprehensive resource powered by the experience of Genealogical.com and includes titles from Clearfield Company, a leading publisher of works on genealogy and family history. So if you haven't tried this yet, hop on the Internet and see what you can find in Genealogy Connect. This dynamic resource is always being updated with new information, so check it often.



Major Battles of the American Revolution- A Time Line

By Lisa Elvin Staltari

Remember high school? Desperately trying to memorize these dates and battles for that final? As Genealogists these dates and places ARE important but far more critical is the LINK we can make to our ancestors. I have talked with many people who had family living in precisely some of these towns (Saratoga, Quebec City, Monmouth in particular) and they hadn't yet made a link to whether or not their ancestor were in the war. The likelihood of your ancestor's involvement with the Revolution would increase tenfold if they were living in a relatively close proximity to where a major battle was fought. Perhaps they themselves didn't "serve" in the army, but perhaps their contribution (or survival) is recorded somewhere. Remember that in Genealogy, LOCATION is everything. Look in *Google Books*, on battle Specific *Websites*, the *D.A.R.* and *NARA*. Read some newspapers from that time. Somewhere there may be a clue to what your ancestors did or didn't do in the war. And that will push your family tree if not further, at least deeper, in your understanding of what they were living through. I also urge you to see how the war travelled. In reviewing these major battles for this piece, I was struck by how the war seemed to take different paths, focused on one state for a little while and then on to the next.

<u>Battle Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>States(s)</u>
BATTLE OF LEXINGTON & CONCORD	4/19/1775	MA
SIEGE OF FT. TICONDEROGA	5/10/1775	NY
CHELSEA CREEK	5/27/1775	MA
BUNKER(BREEDS)HILL	6/16/1775	MA
BATTLE OF QUEBEC	12/31/1775	QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC
BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND	8/27/1776	NY
BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS	10/28/1776	NY
BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON	11/16/1776	NY
BATTLE OF TRENTON	12/26/1776	NJ
BATTLE OF PRINCETON	1/3/1777	NJ
BATTLE OF ORISKANY	8/6/1777	NY
BATTLE OF BENNINGTON	8/17/1777	NY
BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE	9/11/1777	PA
BATTLE OF SARATOGA	9/19/1777	PA
BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN	10/4/1777	PA
BATTLE OF MONMOUTH	6/28/1778	NJ
BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND	8/1778	RI
CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH	12/29/1778	GA
THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON	3/29/1780	SC
THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN	8/16/1780	SC
BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN	10/7/1780	SC & NC
BATTLE OF COWPENS	1/17/1781	SC
BATTLE OF GUILDFORD COURTHOUSE	3/15/1781	NC
BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS	9/8/1781	SC
BATTLE OF YORKTOWN	10/9/1781	VA

What did you do in the war, daddy?

by Lisa Elvin Staltari
After the American revolution--sources and tips on finding your ancestor..

After the war was over, if they survived, these men often came back to fairly difficult circumstances. Many of them had been away from their homes for long periods of time, not able to create any real revenue, and would often return to a farm or home that had been extensively damaged. One of the ways the Government ensured morale was to extend a military pension. These pension files are a Genealogist's Treasure Box! The government first began paying limited pensions in 1776 to disabled soldiers. By 1778, a new bill was introduced that would pay a soldier's pay (half pay) for seven years after the war. This was obviously meant to keep their soldiers fighting. By now, the leaders of the Revolution knew this was not going to be a short war. By 1780, widows began to be included. There were many small changes to these pensions, but the largest change occurred in 1818. Before this, pensions were given for disability or death. This new law meant that anyone who could prove service and financial need was eligible for a pension. This pension was for the life of the patriot. The flood of applications that came in caused some issues but over the next 12 years Congress grew to include widows and orphans and did away with the

"need" component of a pension. This last bill in 1832 was the most generous of all. Congress then went to work on "Widows Pensions" which continued throughout the 1800s. Indeed, there is a newspaper article of a widow who was still receiving her pension in 1906 when she passed away. This is the newspaper article from the Duluth Tribune (Minnesota).

DEATH OF WIDOW OF VETERAN OF 1776

RUTLAND, Vt., Nov. 11.—Mrs. Esther Sumner Damon, said to be the last surviving widow of a soldier of the Revolutionary war, died at her home in Plymouth Union at the age of 93 years. She was married in 1835 when she was 21 years old, to Noah Damon, who was then 75 years of age. Damon served in the Revolutionary war, having enlisted in 1775.

Anyone who has ever done anything with the government will know that there is (almost) ALWAYS a paper trail. There are literally millions of documents and pension records available on line (Fold 3, Ancestry, FamilySearch. org to name just a few) and at Research facilities, such as Family History Libraries, N.A.R.A., D.A.R. Our task is made a bit more challenging due to a fire in 1800 that destroyed most (but not all) the pension records from the very beginning of the Revolution. Some of these can still be found in Congressional reports. Another source is the 1840 census. This census asked for the names and ages of "**Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, included in the foregoing household**". Pensioners could include veterans and widows. If you see this on your family's census, you know the next step is to find a pension record.

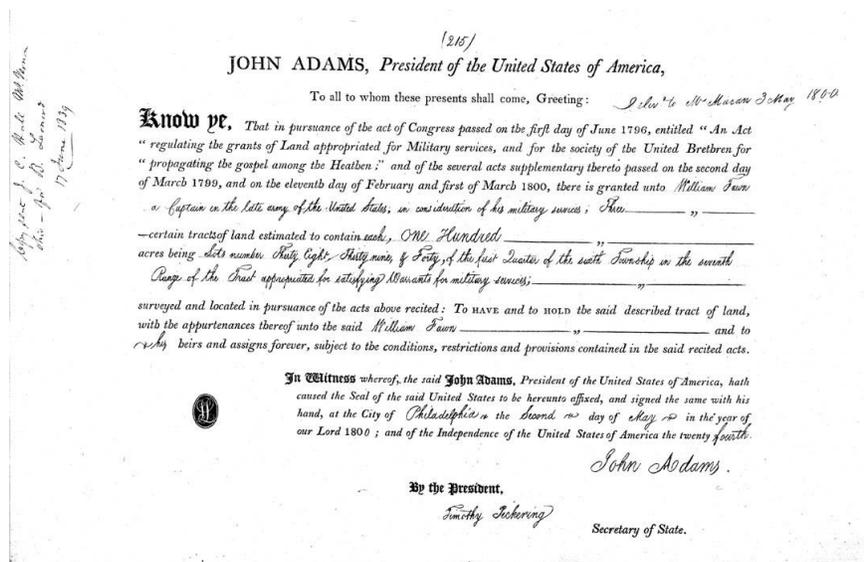
ON THE MOVE WITH YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN

by Lisa Elvin Staltari

By 1818, many, if not most of these men were well into their fifties and beyond. What happened when they came back immediately following the war though? There were no pensions for men who were not injured in 1783. They could, however, apply for a land bounty. A land bounty is simply a piece of land given (granted) to repay citizens (usually military) for the service they have given to their country. Federal Bounty Land Grants can be found at the National Archives and are searchable on various microfilms. Go to www.nara.org. As with all things, not all dates and locations are available. There is an excellent index on FamilySearch called "United State, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications (www.familysearch.org). www.fold3.com is the "go to" website for most military battles. Don't forget Google search as well, and Google books.

It is important to note that there were two kinds of land grants. **Federal** and through the **individual states**. One important note: Even if your ancestor was entitled and was given a land grant, he may not have moved. He may have sold his land grant, preferring the cash to having to go to an unfamiliar location. In states that had both state and federal land grants, veterans were able to apply for both(double dipping as it is called), except in the state of Massachusetts, which did not permit its soldiers to acquire federal land.

In 1775, the Continental Congress authorized payment of 100 acres of land for men who enlisted for 3 terms of service in the Continental line (this was the first national army, not the state militia). By 1788 it allowed any soldier from any state during the War to claim at least 100 acres of bounty land in the U.S. Military District of Ohio.



This is an example of a land grant signed by then President Adams.

Here is a brief synopsis of the complexity of these land grants regarding Ohio:

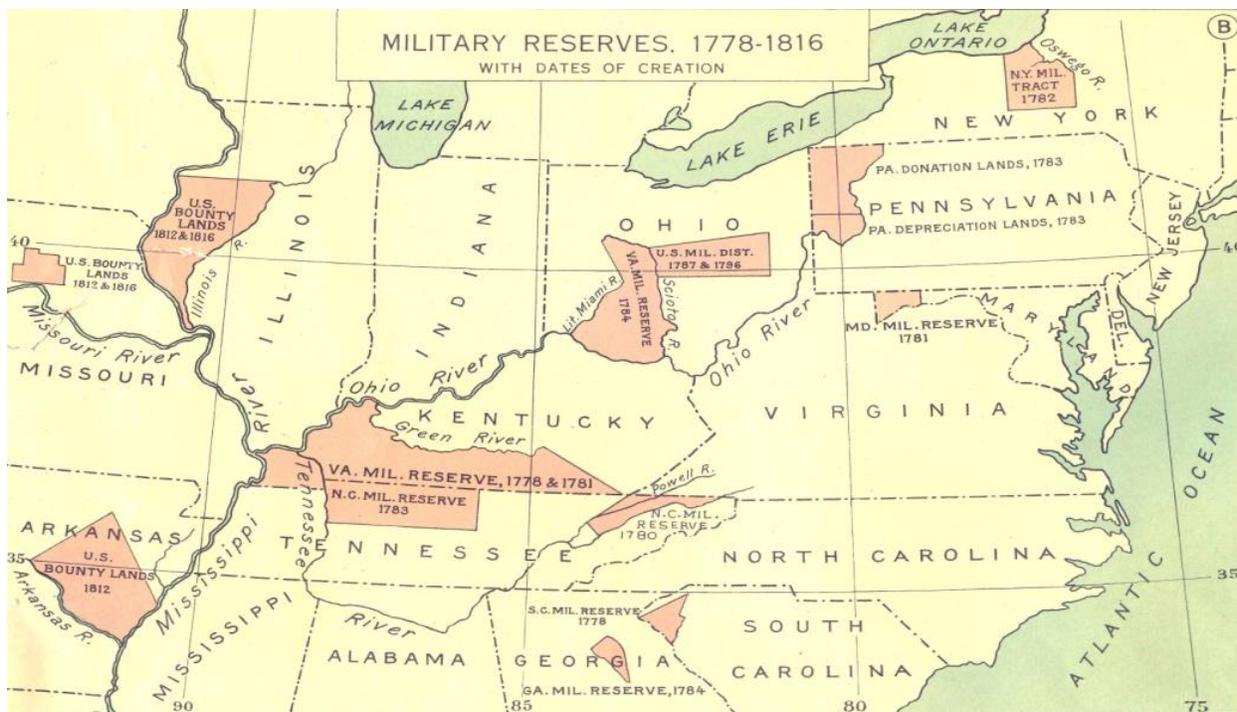
1770 Virginia's borders include parts of what would one day become Ohio. After the war, Virginia establishes the **Virginia Military Reserve** between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers. These were lands available to Virginia and Maryland militia. Unfortunately these land divisions were not always precise. Many times, depending upon the survey being used, there were multiple landowners laying claim to the same piece of land (or parts of).

1796 The United States gained control of these lands and more and establishes the **United States Military District**. This was an area of 2.5 million acres and was the land

assigned to officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

1798. The United States provided land for **Canadian Refugees** who had had been of service (not necessarily military) The Refugee Tract included parts of Franklin, Licking, Perry and Fairfield Counties. (And THIS explains why so many of my "Canadian" people headed to Ohio!)

By **1832**, Land Entries in the U.S. Military District of Ohio end. Veterans who still had not claimed their land were issued scrips entitling them to land in the Military Districts of Indiana or Illinois. How many of you have ancestors who mysteriously show up in Indiana or Illinois in the 1830s and 40s? This may be a clue!



Here is a state by state guide :

CONNECTICUT This state did **not** reward military service but **instead** compensated citizens whose homes or businesses had been burnt or damaged by the British. They offered citizens of this state the opportunity to apply for land in what is known as the **Connecticut Western Reserve**. In 1786, Connecticut returned to the U.S. all land except for the Northeast part of the their Western Reserve (which would eventually become Ohio). This is the land that they offered to their citizens, beginning in 1791. The land grant would be recorded in the town where the person receiving an award had lost property. If you find your Connecticut ancestors arriving in this part of Ohio, chances are this is how he achieved this. The Connecticut soldiers could also benefit from the Federal Land Program.

DELAWARE No state land given. The soldiers **could** benefit from the Federal Land Program.

GEORGIA In 1784, the Georgia legislature awarded to both the military **and** non military (for persons who had demonstrated their loyalty to the Patriot cause.) The land granted went from 230 acres to a Private to 1955 acres to a Brigadier General. The state land that was given was the western border in 1783. Today this is Central Georgia. Servicemen could also benefit from the Federal land Grants.

<http://www.georgiaarchives.org/>

PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania had its own land grant program and allocated land based on military rank. These lands were on the **western boundaries** of their state. From 1 tract of 200 acres to a Private, to 4 tracts of 500 acres to a Major General. The soldiers could also benefit from the Federal Land Program

MARYLAND 4 lots of 50 acres given to Officers. 1 lot of 50 acres to enlisted men. These lots were found in Washington County, which is now present day Allegany and Garrett County in Maryland. The soldiers could also benefit from the Federal Land Program.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/>

<http://www.whilbr.org/garrettlots/index.aspx>

MASSACHUSETTS gave its soldiers bounty land in what is now the state of Maine. They **prohibited** their veterans from applying to the Federal System of Land Grants.

NEW HAMPSHIRE No State Land given. The soldiers **could** benefit from the Federal Land Program.

NEW JERSEY In 1780, the New Jersey legislature authorized 100 acres for a military man who stayed in the state militia for three years. The soldiers **could** benefit from the Federal Land Program

NEW YORK In 1781, New York approved a bounty land grant. Reserved lands were in the Finger Lakes region. Grants ranged from 500 acres to 5,500 acres for a major general.

This military tract consisted of 28 different townships, whose names all have their origins in Greek/Roman Literature and a few modern authors. The tract covered the present counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, and Seneca and parts of Oswego, Tompkins, Schuyler and Wayne .If you are researching in New York and are working in places with names like Cicero, Junius or Milton, you may well be dealing with land obtained from a military land grant. The soldiers **could** also benefit from the Federal Land Program

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

<http://www.swampstomper.nl/history/military.html>

NORTH CAROLINA In 1781, North Carolina approved a bounty land grant program for soldiers who had served 2 years or more in the North Carolina line. Privates got 640 acres, officers, 2560 acres, and up to 12,000 acres depending upon the subsequent ranks held. Warrants for this program were issued by North Carolina between 1783 and 1797. From 1799 to 1841, Tennessee issued the land grants. No land grant was given that is currently in the boundaries of North Carolina. The soldiers **could** also benefit from the Federal Land Program
<http://www2.ncdcr.gov/archives/Home.aspx>

RHODE ISLAND No State Land Given. The soldiers **could** benefit from the Federal Land Program

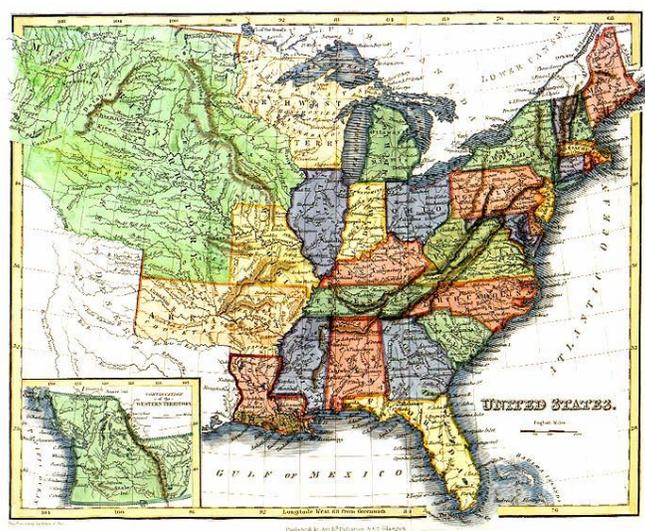
SOUTH CAROLINA
1778- South Carolina approves a bounty land grant program for men who served in the South Carolina Line or the state navy.

Awards begin in 1784. The soldiers **could** also benefit from the Federal Land Program
<http://archives.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

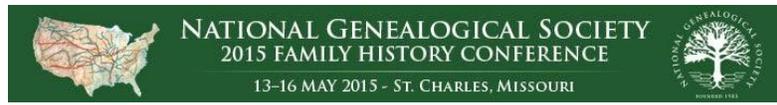
VERMONT No State Land given. The soldiers could benefit from the Federal Land Program

VIRGINIA Awarded its bounty lands in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, before giving up its claims to the Federal government. There are no land grants given that are currently in the present day boundaries of Virginia. The soldiers **could** also benefit from the Federal Land Program
<http://www.virginiamemory.com/>
http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Land_Grants_and_Sales
<http://www.carothers-carruthers.com/landgrants.htm>

An excellent reference is the book *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants: Awarded by State Governments* by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck (He also has written a book on war pensions. Both are available on Amazon, and possibly through libraries)



BY 1832, BECAUSE OF U.S. LAND PURCHASES AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS SETTLING THIS COUNTY, THE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES WAS CONTINUING TO GROW RAPIDLY



by Barbara Wich

Crossroads of America was the theme for the **2015 National Genealogical Society (NGS)** Family History Conference that took place in St. Charles, Missouri this May.

As my Bavarian-Irish American paternal tree sprouts from St. Louis, just across the Missouri River from St. Charles, it was a simple decision to choose to attend this year's NGS annual conference. St. Charles is a river city: 1769 fur trade; Daniel Boone's Lick Trail which became the eastern starting point of both the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails; Lewis and Clark expedition rendezvous, and Missouri's first state capitol, 1821-1826. Today, Main Street features restaurants and shops in restored buildings that date to the 1800's. It is the largest historic district in the State of Missouri and utterly charming. This site was the backdrop for the 2015 NGS Crossroads Conference which began with J. Mark Lowe portraying himself as a cousin of the only man who died [possibly appendicitis] on the Lewis and Clark expedition. He shared his 19th century Missouri struggles, joys and hard-won observations about progress.

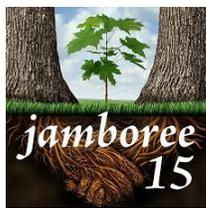
NGS conferences generally last four days with five to six hour-long lectures offered daily in nine subject tracks. One makes class choices based on interests and needs. Topics range from skill building; genealogical proof standard; background and research strategies for various ethnic groups, states, on-line sites, or products; immigration; maps; research organization; writing, unique record collections in an area, etc. Many of the national and local speakers are known for their expertise and published genealogical works.

In addition to the conference block, **NGS** offers pre-conference tours, a genealogical enrichment series for librarians, and in my case an opportunity to attend (for a fee) an extra day of lectures on German research. Different groups (FGS, Speakers' Guild, Writers & Editors, etc.) within the genealogical community have time and space scheduled to attend business &/or networking meetings.

Another feature of genealogical conferences is the **Exhibit Hall**. Exhibitors offer products and services giving participants an opportunity to discuss (or purchase) any items of interest with the vendor. Some companies offer formal talks regarding their product(s). Speakers may be available for a word in corridors, at booths in the exhibitor's hall or at scheduled paid luncheons and banquets.

Because **NGS** co-sponsors its conference with local societies, in this case the **St. Louis Genealogical Society**, local collections generally open their doors to researchers. The St. Charles Genealogical Society on Main Street was open nightly - oh, if only I had known about that Smith marriage while there. The St. Louis County Library (home of the **NGS** Library collection available through interlibrary loan), the Missouri History Museum, and the St. Louis Public Library all offer assistance with genealogical research. In addition, speakers from these organizations as well as **NARA's** Personnel Records Center in St. Louis were featured and available at booths regarding their holdings.

NGS conferences draw crowds of like-minded attendees annually. Because of the caliber of speakers and the overall organizational skills of **NGS**, their conferences can be an enriching experience for any person, no matter one's skill level. The concentrated buzz and energy of hundreds passionately interested in their family history is sure to jump start your own family history adventures.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



JAMBOREE 2015!

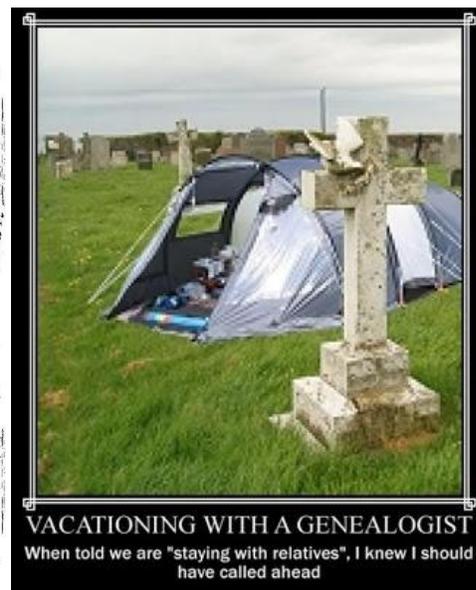
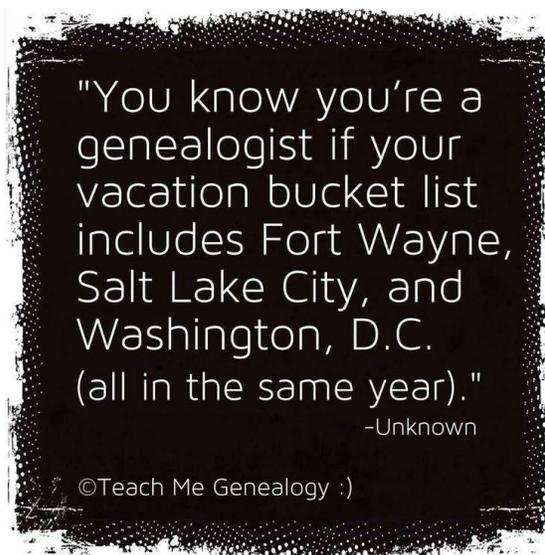
My first Genealogical Conference! What could be more exciting? It was even BETTER than I had even dared imagined. I took the overnight train from Flagstaff to Burbank, arriving exactly across the street from the Marriott Airport Hotel, which was to be my home and conference center for the next four days. I was a day early but I wanted to "get my bearings" and also help out with anything the Conference organizers might need. I was able to help out a little which was an honor for me. The Southern California Genealogical Society has been doing this for 46 years. They have pretty much got this down pat! There were approximately 200 different sessions and thousands of attendees. The speakers were all first-rate and the Marriott Hotel a true refuge for Conference attendees. I was excited to see the Ancestry team coming in, the exhibitors setting up, and the early attendees for the DNA conference were milling about.

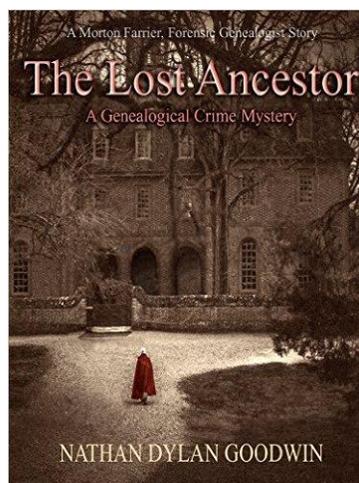
Friday the 5th was an amazing day, beginning with roundtables where you could just discuss different topics. I went to the Southern States Genealogy table and the French Canadian one. I met some wonderful people and obtained a few tips too! The classes I attended were ALL first rate. I had signed up to be a room monitor, so I could guarantee my seat at some of the more popular sessions. I am so glad I did. Some of these speakers were turning people away. I attended my first class on the **7 Deadly Assumptions** by **Angie Bush** (a great refresher course). This was followed by a wonderful Panel Discussion from **Ancestry.com**, featuring some of their key people (**Crista Cowan** being one of my idols!) at which they talked about the new look of Ancestry and some of the improvements they are working on. Then it was time for **Timelines: The Straight Line Between You and Your Ancestor** by **Cyndi Ingle** (Cyndi's List). She truly inspired me and I will be forever changed by the light bulb that went on in my head! That night I attended the Friday Night Banquet (the food truly was exceptional). The speaker: Thomas Jones, the renowned genealogist who has written so many books, and is the editor of the NGS Magazine. His talk was on "How Genealogy has not changed in 50 years". It was a wonderful evening! I met and chatted with so many genealogists, from beginners to experienced professionals who had actually been Presidents of this or that national Society. It was my version of attending the Oscars!

The next day I was still going strong, having to pinch myself that I was actually here. I started the day with Lisa Louise Cooke took the stage and gave her presentation on **Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries. I was in awe** - I took a break from classes, mid morning and wandered around the exhibit hall. I met Lisa Louise Cooke at her booth and promptly bought all her books and signed up for her podcasts. The number of Vendors and exhibitors was amazing. I chatted with both the Ancestry folks on my DNA results which I had just done the month before, and was able to network with other genealogists as we wandered the Hall! I returned to the conference for another round of Lisa Louise Cooke with her wonderful presentation of **Getting the Scoop--How to find your family in Newspapers**. After lunch, I

took Cyndi Ingle's **Plotting, Scheming and Mapping Online** (a bit over my head to be honest--but that's what conferences are supposed to do--stretch and kick us out of our comfort zones!) The next session I attended was **Paula Stuart Warren's Midwestern & Plains States Level Census Records** - a very engaging and knowledgeable presenter. I ended the day returning for another presentation by Lisa Louise Cooke called **Update: Google! Everything New That You Need to Know for Genealogy**. The amount of pure research tips in that one seminar was truly amazing. I did not attend Saturday's Evening Banquet (which I later regretted) but by then, my brain could NOT absorb one more thing!

The last day, Sunday, I could muster up only the energy for one more class, again by Crista Cowan on "**Getting More Out Of Your Ancestry Subscription**". Afterwards, I settled myself down with my computer, had lunch at the Daily Grill, and waited for my shuttle to take me to the train. Once on the train, I gathered up all my papers I had amassed and tried to make some sense of it all. I quickly gave up on that project! As the train sped off eastward into the darkness for home, I slept in my sleeper car, completely fulfilled and truly excited about the adventure I had just had. More experienced NAGS members had told me this was a truly "fun" one. For me, it was that and so much more. Like all "firsts" there is a bit of magic involved. It was truly a magical and memorable experience. I hope to return to that conference again, and MANY more!





The Author, Mr. Goodwin, contacted me early in June and asked if I would be interested in reviewing this book. Although I ran out of time to do a true review for this newsletter, I can heartily recommend it. He has graciously sent the Society a copy of the book which we will raffle off at our August Meeting. Once the winner has been selected, Mr. Goodwin will sign and send a note to the winner!

Here's a small synopsis from Amazon: *From acclaimed author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin comes this exciting new genealogical crime mystery, featuring the redoubtable forensic genealogist, Morton Farrier. When Morton is called upon by Ray Mercer to investigate the 1911 disappearance of his great aunt, a housemaid working in a large Edwardian country house, he has no idea of the perilous journey into the past that he is about to make. Morton must use his not inconsiderable genealogical skills to solve the mystery of Mary Mercer's disappearance, in the face of the dangers posed by those others who are determined to end his investigation at any cost.*

NAGS PHOTO GALLERY

Pictures by Cheryl Moreno (June 2015 Meeting)



GENEALOGY CALENDER OF EVENTS



Missouri State Genealogical Association
August 7-8, 2015
Columbia, Missouri
<http://mosga.org/>

Northwest Genealogy Conference
August 13-15, 2015
Arlington, Washington
<http://www.nwgc.org>

NAGS MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, August 22nd
Topic: Causes of Death
Speaker Barbara Wich
Time: 2 p.m. (1:30 pm for socializing and networking)
**Location: Prescott Gateway Mall
Conference Room (Hallway next to Bath
and Body Works)**

**New York State Family History
Conference**
(In partnership with FGS)
September 17-19, 2015
Syracuse, New York
<http://www.nysfhc.org/>

NAGS MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, September 19th
Family History Day
Assorted Family Track
Time: 2 p.m. (1:30 pm for socializing and networking)
**Location: Family History Center
Ruth Street**

Montana State Genealogical Conference
September 24-26, 2015
Butte, Montana
<http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

NAGS MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, Oct 24th
Topic: Orphan Train
Speaker Time: 2 p.m. (1:30 pm for socializing and networking)
**Location: Prescott Gateway Mall
Conference Room (Hallway next to Bath
and Body Works)**



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