

GILA HERITAGE

Quarterly of the
 NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 a non-profit organization
 PAYSON, ARIZONA

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From the Editor:

Don't forget to bring in your empty ink cartridges and old cell phones to the library for recycling. Also, remember to renew your e-scrip at Basha's and Safeway if necessary. For a complete list of merchants go to: www.escrip.com. or find a copy at our library.

Thanks to Bill Kerzig and Kathy McKibben for the fine job they have been doing on the grounds maintenance....the weeds didn't have a chance!

Enjoy!



NORTHERN GILA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

**NGCGS Genealogy Library
302 East Bonita Street, Payson, AZ
Payson, AZ 85541-5012
(928) 474-2139**

E-Mail Address: NGCGS@NPGcable.com

WEB SITE: <http://users.rootsweb.com/~azngcgs/index.html>

Editor’s Note: If you wish to view this newsletter on line at NGCGS’s website (hold down the “control” key and point your cursor on the blue, underlined link, and you will be transported directly to the web-link and additional information. Sorry, it won’t work if you’re just reading a hard copy!

Library Hours: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m. Or By Appointment

2008 OFFICERS

President.....Clarice Christensen
First Vice President.....Val Sullivan
Second Vice President.....Nancy Hancock
Secretary.....Judy Voran
Corresponding Sec.....Kay Keplinger
Treasurer.....Kathy McKibben
Head Librarian / Trainer.....Judy Voran
Office Manager.....open position

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Special Projects.....Kathy McKibben
Community Liaison & Publicity.....Nancy Hancock
Webmaster.....Judy Voran
Telephone.....Joann Thompson
Ways & Means.....Val Sullivan
Historian.....Kathy McKibben
Building Maintenance.....Griff Brown
Membership.....Barbara Ebeling

We specialize in helping add branches to family trees!

MEETINGS: Meetings are held at **1:30 p.m.**, the first **Thursday** of the month (unless a holiday) at the Genealogy Library. Visitors are always welcome!

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address all correspondence to NGCGS Library and include a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP:


Individual.....\$20.00 Family (related, same address).....\$30.00
Individual Life.....\$150.00 Family Life (related, same address \$200.00
Associate/Library.....\$10.00

NEWSLETTER: The *GILA HERITAGE*, ISSN: 0893-7753, is published quarterly and can be read on line at our website (see above for address). The quarterly is not copyrighted. Reprint permission is given, (except for copyrighted material as noted) but please give us credit. Neither NORTHERN GILA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY nor the editor of *GILA HERITAGE* assumes responsibility for errors of facts or judgment on the part of the contributor. Errors will be corrected, however, when brought to our attention.



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Nancy Hancock
MANAGER

Up-coming Events- Mark Your Calendar NOW:

November 6, Thursday- General business meeting. For the program, Paty Henderson will be talking about Slover's Run. Slover was a scout for General Washington and who died fighting a bear.

December 4, Thursday- General business meeting at noon followed by our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. The year in revue plus installation of 2009 officers. We are encouraged to tell about our best genealogical finds of the year.

Renee Durfee and Peggy Gray were nominated to find a slate of officers for 2009.

The following positions were presented at the October 4th meeting and passed by the vote of members in attendance.

President: Kay Keplinger
1st Vice President: John Munro
2nd Vice President: Peggy Gray and Barbara Ebeling
Recording Secretary: Barbara Ebeling
Corresponding Secretary: Peggy Gray
Treasurer: Kathy McKibben

"Beginning Genealogy" Classes

Peggy Gray's monthly basic genealogy class for beginners is a great success, AND we have received several new members as a result! Each class is held at the genealogy library on the third Friday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Each class will be the same, so if one date isn't good for you, pre-register for a different month. Pre-registration and payment of fee is required. If attendees are already members of the society, the class only costs \$5; if an attendee joins the society (\$15) the class will cost \$5; if an attendee does not join the society, the class will cost \$25. For more information, call Peggy Gray at (928) 474-5015

Thank You, Peggy for conducting these beginning classes! We have gained several new members because of your efforts.

Member, Judy Voran was kind enough to send this great website along to all of us:

This weekend I came across a helpful website at FamilySearch.org. The URL is https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page. For those of you not familiar with this page, I offer the following which could possibly be very helpful.

By virtue of twenty years worth of digging into US records, I think that I can be fairly helpful in working with individuals searching their family history in the US. However, when it comes to foreign countries and recent immigrants, I am at a disadvantage. My husband's Voran ancestors were Swiss Volhynian Mennonites who came to this country in 1874, but they brought all of their records with them (as a small persecuted religious sect) which made it easy to refer to the records and collate them for his particular family. But...I digress.

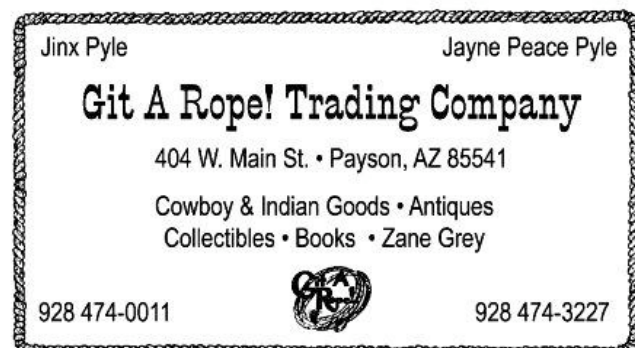
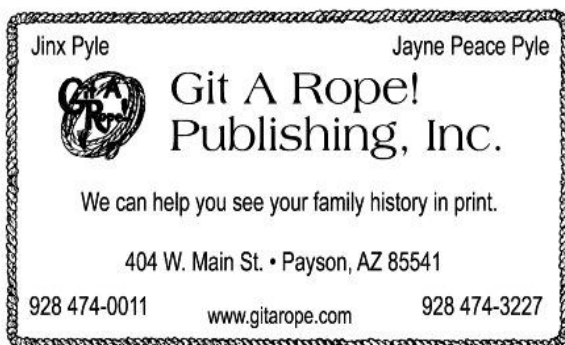
In talking with someone on Thursday who is working on recent German immigration, I thought again of how little I know about recent immigration and started searching the Web. I found the FamilySearch Wiki website mentioned above and followed it through to what I thought might be helpful for German immigration. However, it can be helpful to genealogists of all colors, shapes, sizes and points of origin.

A Wiki is defined as "a website that visitors can edit using their browser. Groups can use a wiki to author documents collaboratively. An example is Wikipedia.org, the collaborative encyclopaedia." The FamilySearch Wiki website has as its subtitle "Free Research Advice from the Family History Community; by the Family History Community"

Go to the URL https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

If you are interested in immigration, click on the country from which your ancestor immigrated. If the specific country is not listed click on "See All" and click on the name of the country. Carefully study the resulting "Portal Page" There are all sorts of links to many resources including "Emigration and Immigration" in a frame to the right of the main topics. If you are interested in immigration, click on that link....and so on.

The amount of information for US records alone is HUGE. When you have some time, take a trip around the FamilySearch Wiki website if you have not already done so.



"Remus Starr"

(A Lesson in Writing Family History)

An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription:

"Remus Starr; horse thief; sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887; robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives. Convicted and hanged 1889."

In a Family History subsequently written by the researcher, Remus's picture is cropped so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad.

Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S FLAX

"Good flax and good hemp to have of her own,

In May a good housewife will see it be sown,

And afterwards trim it to serve in the need;

The fimble to spin, the card for her seed."

(fimble a light summer hemp having no seeds) (Book of Housewifely)

For hundreds of years before the Industrial Revolution, spinning had been done in the home on a simple device called a spinning wheel. Almost everyone has seen one of the pretty, little foot-wheels for spinning flax into thread. To make use of that wheel took patient industry and tiring work.

The processing of flax was a long arduous process that took eighteen months to two years and involved the whole family. It had to be planted, weeded, and harvested before it ripened. Before the flax could be processed for its fiber, the seeds were removed by pulling it through coarse combs in a process called *rippling*. The seeds were kept for the next year's crop or if there were more than were needed they were traded.

Next the flax was *retted* by keeping the stalks wet either by spreading the flax stalks on the ground and letting the dew rot the woody part of the stalk, could *retting* them in a running stream. What ever method it freed the fiber from the woody part of the plant.

After the stalks rotted, the whole family stood the stalks heads up, in stacks resembling wigwams to dry. When thoroughly dry the men and older boys would *break* the stalks by repeatedly pounding them with mallets. This broke the woody part of the stalk into small pieces called *shives*.

The *shives* were then stripped from the fibers by *scutching*, that is, placing the stalks over the end of an upright board and hitting and scraping the stalks with a flat wooden blade.

The final step was combing or *hakling* the fibers to separate the long, or *line*, fibers from the short or *tow*, fibers. For linen thread the fibers were hackled repeatedly, using finer and finer combs. The fibers were then sorted according to fineness; this was called *spreading and drawing*. Finally the flax was ready for spinning on the wheel.

The fibers were spun, one thread at a time, into a long even thread. The coarse tow fibers were spun into coarse yarns, cord, or twines. Keeping her fingers moist with water the spinner held the twisting flax, which by the movement of the wheel was wound on a bobbin. When the bobbin was full the thread was wound off in knots and skeins on a reel. Usually the knots or layers were forty threads and twenty knots made a skein or *slipping*.

The skeins were *bucked*, that is, bleached with ashes and hot water in a *bucking tub*, over and over , then laid in clear water for a week. Then came the *grand seething*, rinsing, beating, washing, drying, and winding on bobbins for the loom.

The next time you see one of those little flax wheels remember the great effort it took to make that little machine useful.

Adapted from *Home life in Colonial Days*, Alice Morse Earl, reprint 1993

Thanks to Val Sullivan for presenting our September program on “**Websites for Finding Living Relatives**” and for passing on the following information!

WEBSITES FOR FINDING LIVING RELATIVES

<http://bigfoot.whitepages.com/> Free Website that has a tab for: people search, business search, reverse lookup, area & zip codes as well as “WhitePages Anywhere” and international resources.

<http://switchboard.com/> allows you to search for a business, a person, search by phone, area or zip code. It also provides maps and directions. Free website.

<http://www.zabasearch.com/> Telephone Numbers and Addresses Revealed Free. No Registration Required. Instant Results. Both free and paid.

<http://www.usa-people-search.com/> Find people instantly with our people search engine, just enter their name and click search. You can also add city, state, age, or zip code. Or search by address or phone number. Results include name, aliases, age, date of birth, address history, unlisted phone numbers, relatives, email addresses, and more. The people finder database contains billions of public records compiled from thousands of sources that go back over 20 years. A free online summary is included for all searches, so you know what you're getting if you decide to buy.

<http://www.onlinedetective.com/> Now you can find out just about anything about anyone! With OnlineDetective as your search tool, you can quickly locate the information you need. Find out what "they" know about you or investigate someone else. Paid site that gives you access to over 100,000 public record databases.

<http://www.ussearch.com/consumer/index> US Search is the leading People Search destination. Since 1994, US Search has helped millions of people reconnect with friends, family, classmates, colleagues – anyone. US Search accesses billions of records to provide quick and accurate People Search Results. Both free and paid.

<http://www.searchbug.com/> Find and investigate people, locate businesses, verify phone numbers and addresses. Both free and paid.

www.reunion.com requires free registration info from you.

www.peoplelookup.com This tool can be used in lieu of white pages to help you find people, lookup a phone number, search for cell numbers, find an address or phone number for people, and search for people in the US. With such an array of services, People Lookup provides more comprehensive results than the white pages, and allows People Finder to help you find people and also enables people to search for cell phone numbers. This database uses information from public records to enable people to lookup phone numbers, reverse address lookup, and other search services.

www.peoplefinders.com The Web's largest, most useful People Search lets you find old friends, locate former classmates, and create your own reunions. PeopleFinders' massive people search database retrieves billions of hard-to-find public records, cross-checked for accuracy, hard-to-find addresses, missing phone numbers and lost email for the person you are searching for. Always free to search.

www.intelius.com, www.netdetective.com, [http://www.knowx.com/](http://www.knowx.com) Paid websites

www.google.com & www.yahoo.com Free Websites

The Elusive Ancestor
By Merrell Kenworthy

I went searching for an ancestor. I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned. He mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take the U. S. census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.
And every twenty years or so, this rascal changed his name.
He parents came from Europe. They should be on some list
Of passengers to U.S.A., but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this world is searching for this man.
So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed,
But the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.

He died before county clerks decided to keep records.
No family bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans,
Just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

Military Records of 18th & 19th Centuries

**Includes French & Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812,
Civil War, Spanish-American War & Phillipine Insurrection**

Sign-up Sheet for Tuesday, Jan 20, 2009 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM
\$20.00/person-100% goes to operation of the library
Must have at least 5 signed up to hold the workshop

Name	E-mail or phone number
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Before I Close.....This will be my final edition as your 2008 editor. I am moving to Phoenix to be closer to my sister in December. I want to thank all of you for your support in helping me write the Gila Heritage this past year.

Happy Hunting,
Nancy Hancock

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