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### From the Editor:

Readers will see the myriad of events that are planned during this summer and fall, so make sure you mark your calendars so you don't miss anything.

I am planning to include in all future issues of the *Gila Heritage* a one-page review of some interesting websites. If you come across an interesting one, please contact me so it can be included in a future issue.

The last issue reviewed our successes for 2005; there were so many, there wasn't room to include the goals set by the Board for this year. This issue rectifies that.

Finally, working with probate records is a fascinating experience. Thanks, Judy, for turning me on to this aspect of genealogy that can reveal lots of information about our ancestors and how they lived.

**Enjoy!**



**NORTHERN GILA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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

E-Mail Address: [NGCGS@NPGcable.com](mailto:NGCGS@NPGcable.com)

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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First Vice President.....Clarice Christensen  
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Office Manager.....Joan Savage

And Judy Voran is Head Librarian

**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.....\$15.                      Family (related, same address).....\$30.  
Individual Life.....\$150.                  Family Life (related, same address) \$200.  
Associate/Library.....\$10.

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## Up-coming Events- Mark Your Calendar NOW!



**May 4th** – NGCGS Regular Meeting: Mrytle (Pyle) Warter is presenting - "Musicians featured on the 2006 calendar put out by the Daughters of the Gila County Pioneers Countywide".

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Arizona Genealogy Advisory Board meeting at our library at 1:30 PM. This is the State-Wide Genealogy organization bi-monthly meeting and we are fortunate to have them in Payson. All are welcome to attend. We will be conducting a tour of our library.

**June 1st** - NGCGS Regular Meeting: The program will be "Set up for the yard sale to be held June 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Parking will be available on the street.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** - Judy Voran will conduct a workshop at the NGCGS Library on Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Migration Routes. Cost for the workshop is \$20 per person. Non-members are welcome to participate. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the NGCGS Library so bring a friend. Proceeds go to operating expenses for our Library.

People have been migratory animals throughout human history. Passengers disembarked at a few ports along the Atlantic Coast. The colonists followed a few well-known and established routes to their new homes. Many early settlers followed paths created by wild animals and the Native Americans; these have become the routes followed by many of our modern turnpikes and freeways.

Families and other groups, such as church congregations or religious communities often traveled together along these routes. Seldom, if ever, in these early years did families travel alone. By "Following the Neighbors" it is sometimes possible to work backwards to establish an ancestor or to build a hypothesis about family origins.

The seminar will focus on early migration routes: The Boston Post Road and King's Highway; The Great Valley or Philadelphia Wagon Road; The Wilderness Road; migration routes from New England through New York; The National Road; roads to the Old Southwest; the Mormon Trail; and the Oregon Trail and other lesser known routes. Your families may have been immigrants to the U.S. after the establishment of paved roads and railroads. However, the story of the early migration routes is an important part of the study of American history. From that viewpoint, an understanding of early migration routes is an understanding of the social and political forces at work when your ancestors arrived in this country and began their migration.

**June 7-10** – National Genealogical Society Conference, "They Passed this Way", will be in Chicago, Illinois. For brochure, contact NGS at 703-525-0050. The NGS web site is: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

**June 20th** - Night meeting at the Payson Public Library -7:00 PM presented by Tim Ehrhardt on "Boles Homestead & Ehrhardt family history". Those needing a ride should sign up at the NGCGS Library or call Val Sullivan at 468-6698 by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**July 6th** - NGCGS Regular Meeting: Sue Owen and Phillice Kinmon will be talking on their Lives and Family Histories.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** - Val Sullivan will conduct a workshop at the NGCGS Library on Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM covering information about Military Records of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries and what's available on the Internet. Subjects that will be included are the French & Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, American Civil War, Spanish-American War, and the Philippine Insurrection. Cost for the workshop is \$20 per person. Non-members are welcome to participate so bring a friend. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the NGCGS Library. Must have five signed up. Proceeds go to operating expenses for our Library.

**August 3rd** - NGCGS Regular Meeting: Attendees " Show and Tell: Bring a Treasure or story of what they are doing".

**August 19<sup>th</sup>**- Val Sullivan will conduct a workshop at the NGCGS Library on Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM covering Military Records of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century available on the Internet. Subjects that will be included are the Great War (also known as WW1), World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Cost for the workshop is \$20 per person. Non-members are welcome to participate so bring a friend. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the NGCGS Library. Must have five signed up. Proceeds go to operating expenses for our Library.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** - NGCGS Regular Meeting: Val Sullivan will show the technique of placing graphics, such as family photos, census records, maps, World War I Draft Registration Cards, and vital records, into your Family Tree Maker program. A future program will show why you must do this if you use Family Tree Maker to write your family history in book form.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** – Judy Voran will conduct a workshop at the NGCGS Library on Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Land Records. Cost for the workshop is \$20 per person. Non-members are welcome to participate so bring a friend. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the NGCGS Library. Proceeds go to operating expenses for our Library.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>** - Night Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Payson Public Library-Wally Davis, member of the Tonto Apache Tribe, will be discussing "How Apache Genealogy is Different from Other Ethnic Groups." Those needing a ride should sign up at the NGCGS Library or call Clarice Christensen at 468-6956 by September 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Genealogy Website Review

- How many of us are frustrated by the military records that were destroyed in the St. Louis fire? Well, here's some encouragement to find a lot of information on other sources you can use: National Personnel Records Center is located at: [www.archives.gov/veterans/research/prologue-spotlight-nprc.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/research/prologue-spotlight-nprc.html) The following is but one paragraph from the NPRC website with encouragement for obtaining military records.

“Since 1973, NPRC has obtained alternative sources of documents to verify the dates of individual military service and the character of separation for many of the veterans whose files were destroyed. Among these are final pay records, enlistment registers from induction stations, an index of World War II service numbers and dates they were assigned, morning reports, unit rosters, and discharge orders. May state and federal agencies, particularly the Department of Veteran Affairs, assist NPRC in the reconstruction effort.”
- Public Land Survey System at: [http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a\\_plss.html](http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a_plss.html)

This website contains an article about the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). PLSS is a way of subdividing and describing land in the United States. All lands in the public domain are subject to subdivision by the rectangular system of surveys, which is regulated by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Many of us have been confused by terminology on land records we find. This website describes the system, explains the terminology and has drawings which illustrate the system.
- Genealogy Look Up Forum at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Egqnealogylookup/>

Check this website to see if anyone is doing free genealogy lookups in an area where you are researching. The information is somewhat limited right now, but it is growing.
- Penny Postcards at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

Postcards are available for most counties in all of the states. I found several for small towns where I am researching. You can save the image as a JPEG file and then print it out. There are lots of postcards from the early 1900s. It's fun to see what a town might have looked like when your grandparents lived there. (Refer to the Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to find out how to put these pictures into Family Tree Maker.)

*If you know of any websites that may be of interest to our readers, please send the website address and a one-line description to Val Sullivan, [vsull9173@aol.com](mailto:vsull9173@aol.com).*



## The W. C.

A little old English lady was looking for a room in Switzerland. She asked the local schoolmaster to help her. A place that suited her was finally found, and the woman returned to London to make her final moving arrangements. She suddenly remembered that she had not noticed if the bathroom was close to her accommodations. She wrote to the schoolmaster to inquire but used the English expression for bathroom "W.C." (water closet). The schoolmaster was confused by the initials "W.C." and assumed they stood for the Wesleyan Church. So here was his letter of reply:

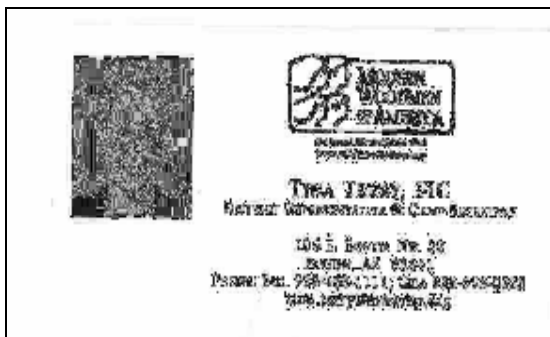
Dear Madam,

The W.C. is situated 9 miles from the house in the center of a beautiful grove of trees. It is capable of seating 350 people at a time and is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday each week. A large number of folks attend during the summer months, so it is suggested you go early, although there is plenty of standing room. Some folk like to take their lunch and make a day of it, especially on Thursday when there is organ accompaniment. The acoustics are very good and everyone can hear the slightest sound.

It may interest you to know that my daughter was married in our W. C. and it was there she met her husband. We hope you will be there in time for our bazaar to be held very soon. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of plush seats which the folks agree are a long-felt need, as the present seats all have holes in them. My wife is rather delicate, therefore she cannot attend regularly. It has been 6 months since the last time she went. Naturally, it pains her very much not to be able to go more often.

I shall close now with the desire to accommodate you in every way possible and I will be happy to save you a seat down front or near the door, which ever you prefer.

Sincerely, Schoolmaster



## NGCGS Goals for 2006

- Adding useful genealogy resources to shelves
- Entering data for the following records into Excel Spreadsheet:
  - Complete library catalog
  - Obituary Index
  - Homestead Records
  - School Census records
  - Gila county and Arizona Collections
- Posting above additional records to our website as completed
- Because monthly meeting attendance is dropping, the Board wants to **experiment** with holding **2 evening** Genealogy Meetings at the **Public Library** to allow working members to attend some meetings. Rides will be provided to those unable to drive in the evening. The Public Library is not available on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month so the Library has been reserved for the following dates at 7:00 PM
  - June 20
  - Dec. 19
- Increasing membership to 90. Currently membership is at 73 individual members. We added 22 new members to our roster in 2005! Can we do it again?
- Holding four workshops at the Genealogy Library from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, each will cost \$20.00. Must have intense public announcements to increase attendance. Classes to have 5 signed up in order to have.
  - Migration Routes on June 17- Judy Voran
  - US Military Records of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries on July 15- Val Sullivan
  - US Military Records of 20<sup>th</sup> Century on August 15-Val Sullivan
  - Land Records on September 16- Judy Voran
- Attempt to get 2 more computers and a scanner donated by Ken Mystrom.
- Scottsdale Public Library and Boston Public Library membership to allow us to access as a library in order to connect to First Search (Val and Judy to explore)
- Holding at least two field trips. Members to suggest possible activities or destinations

## European Censuses

by Raymond S. Wright III, Ph.D., AG

Censuses are popular with genealogists. They name almost everyone in locality and often include important information about household members. Most family historians are familiar with United States decennial censuses, but may overlook them when searching for ancestors in European records.

Most nations in Europe created census records at some point in their history. Unfortunately, these records were often destroyed as soon as statistical reports were compiled. Germany is a case in point. The state archives of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Schwerin, Germany, has a large collection of census records naming individuals. Some date from the first quarter of the seventeenth century.

Other parts of Germany — Saxony, for example — have only statistical abstracts from censuses conducted as early as the middle of the eighteenth century. Few European censuses are indexed, requiring searchers to examine all census entries from the appropriate locality and time period.

Denmark's earliest census was taken in 1769, but the second census in 1787 began the practice of naming individuals and recording facts about them and their families. Like most European censuses, Danish censuses are not indexed, but are worth searching for important information about ancestors and their families.

Genealogists should remember that Schleswig-Holstein, Germany was part of Denmark until 1864. Sweden and Norway have census-taking traditions similar to Denmark, but began recording individual information about one hundred years earlier. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, has microfilmed many of these censuses.

England's census-taking traditions also begin in the eighteenth century. These enumerations are statistical in nature until 1841, at which time census takers were required to list all members of each household, and record facts about them. Similar censuses are found in other parts of the now defunct British Empire, including Canada and Australia.

How does a family historian determine whether or not censuses were kept in the area where ancestors lived? A search of the Family History Library Catalog will provide some quick answers. Search under the country as well as the county, province, department, or equivalent jurisdiction. If no entries are listed under the topic "Census", it will be necessary to write to archives in the area to determine the prevalence of censuses that name inhabitants.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has microfilmed censuses from several European nations. If researchers are unable to find needed censuses in the Family History Library Catalog, a letter or telephone call to the state archives nearest the ancestral home town will produce answers to questions about censuses from the area. Try the Internet or a call to the embassy or nearest consulate of ancestors' home countries for the address of archives.

The Family History Library has published a series of Research Outlines for many European countries. Each country's outline contains a discussion of census records. Doreen S. Goyer's and Gera E. Draaijer's book *The Handbook of National Population Censuses* (New York: Greenwood, 1992) is another valuable resource.



# General Search Tips to Researching Court, Probate, and Land Records

(From Ancestry.com)

Researching court, probate, and land records may require a bit more effort than other sources. Generally, there are three ways to access these records:

1. **Microfilm** - the Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed court records for many areas in the United States. Keep in mind that not all court records may have been microfilmed for a specific county. For example, the court record books and order books may have been microfilmed, but not the court packets themselves. Look though the Family History Library Card Catalog, but remember that exhausting the Family History Library's collection does not mean that all extant records have been accessed. There might be un-filmed records in the original repository. It may be productive to make photocopies of the appropriate indexes for later research and analysis at home.
2. **Published records** - some court records have been transcribed and published. A majority of published records come from east of the Mississippi and are pre-American Revolution. Reference the Family History Library Catalog and other library catalogs for citations to published court records. Note that post-1850 court records are largely unpublished, and also be aware that some published records are

abstracts or extractions, not complete verbatim transcriptions.

3. **The actual courthouse** - this would be the county courthouse for most areas of the United States (a significant exception would be those records filed in the independent cities of Virginia). Many records facilities do not have the staff to perform detailed research services, so if you aren't able to visit the facility yourself, you may need to hire a researcher to search the records for you.

## Probate Records Search Tips

- Probate records are created at the time of an individual's death, and are meant to establish the legality of a will. In probate records, you can find the will (which will tell you what types of assets the deceased had) and often a list of the names of survivors, and their relationship to the deceased.
- In many probate jurisdictions, documents will be found listing all heirs and their addresses, husbands of female heirs, and second marriages of widows. In some states, these settlement documents are found in the office of the land recorder-Division of Real Estate.

**The Probate Record of Arthur L. Hughes**  
**By Valerie L. Sullivan, Grand-daughter**

I recently went to the Hartford County Court House in Hartford, CT to get a copy of my Grand-Father's probate record. Arthur L. Hughes died 14 Aug. 1952, but the probate of his estate did not close until 1983! What took it so long to close? The terms of his will indicated that \$50 a month would go for the care of one of his two daughters, Phyllis. It seems she was not capable of caring for herself.

In addition to his will, I also received a copy of the inventory of his estate, which included a 1940 Nash four-door Touring Sedan valued at \$195, a social security death benefit of \$199.80 (about what it is today?), a couple of parcels of land, \$7,352.50 worth of stocks in various banks in New York, and an insurance policy for \$5,000. (He was a Vice President of Travelers Insurance Company.) The inventory list provided clues on how my grand-father lived.

Phyllis died in 1983 and at that time the probate could close. Because it was open for so long, an annual report had to be provided to each of the three children who stood to inherit his estate, so I was able to track the addresses of where they each lived during this period of time. What a storehouse of information I found as a result of the estate being open this long! I discovered that Grampa Arthur's other daughter, Elizabeth, had married not once, but twice, so I now have her married names to research. But the big payoff was that I discovered she had two sons, Roger and Donald Ferguson, who would be my first cousins. Hopefully, it won't take me long, using some of the websites I showed folks at our last meeting, to find these living relatives.

The moral of this story is: don't overlook doing probate research. You can find real treasures!

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