



GILA HERITAGE

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

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The Editor's Corner

This issue is a potpourri of ideas that hopefully will be useful to your genealogical efforts from tips on collecting ancestor markers, railroad records before and after 1936, railroad Record Depositories, Newly Donated Materials now in our library, and Computer Classes being offered at our local Community College on how to use Family Tree Maker to its best advantage. Enjoy!

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

A non-profit corporation

New Genealogy Library Facility

302 East Bonita Street, Payson, AZ

Payson, AZ 85547-0952

(928) 474-2139

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

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

We specialize in helping add branches to family trees!

OFFICERS IN 2004

President.....Alice Kenmore
First Vice President.....Jimi Stewart
Second Vice President.....Val Sullivan
Secretary.....Judy Voran
Corresponding Sec.....Lois Brice
Treasurer.....Frieda Chittick

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ILL Clerk.....Peggy Grey
Historian.....Joan Savage
Publicity.....Lettie Cale
Telephone.....Viola Robertson
Newsletter.....Val Sullivan
Office Manager.....Joan Savage

MEETINGS: Meetings are held at **1:30 p.m.**, the first **Thursday** of the month (unless a holiday) at:

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

Visitors always welcome!

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address all correspondence to:

**NGCGS Library
302 East Bonita Street
Payson, AZ 85547-0952**

Please 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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October Is National Family History Month



Recognizing the massive surge in popularity of tracing one's roots, the U.S. Congress has officially designated October as National Family History Month by unanimously passing a Senate resolution (S.R.175).

This resolution celebrates the fact that more than 80 million Americans are actively searching for information about their ancestors and also encourages others to begin their search.

"Experts say that in the United States, genealogy is now the second most popular hobby next to gardening," says Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). "It is only natural that we want to find out more about our ancestors, and what better way to bring families closer together than by discovering more about the story of your own family?"

October will also be the first anniversary for our new home and your Board is already preparing activities for the fiesta. If you have any ideas you'd like to contribute, contact one of the Board Members listed on page 2 of this newsletter!!

ARE YOU MISSING ANCESTORS AROUND 1890?

The Ancestry.com 1890 Census Substitute may hold the answers you need. When a basement fire in the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C. destroyed most of the 1890 federal census, a valuable source of information was lost to researchers of America's past. Ancestry.com, with the aid of the National Archives and Records Administration and the Allen County Public Library, is compiling the first definitive online substitute for the missing census. More than twenty million records have been identified for inclusion in the collection and additions will be made regularly as they become available for posting. It includes fragments of the original 1890 census that survived the fire, special veterans schedules, several Native American tribe censuses for years surrounding 1890, state censuses (1885 or 1895), city and county directories, alumni directories, and voter registration documents. When completed, this collection will be an unparalleled tool for researchers of American ancestors.



COLLECTING YOUR ANCESTORS' MARKERS

by Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

from Ancestry Daily News at www.Ancestry.com

Have you been collecting your ancestors' markers? "Markers?" you ask, "What's a marker? I don't remember anything about markers in genealogy class." Markers are the things that identify, or mark, our ancestors. They are not documents and they are not events, although they are found in documents and events.

For each person you are researching, review the records you have found and make a list of markers.

Occupation is a valuable marker. We find an ancestor's occupation in censuses from 1850 onward, in deeds, and in obituaries. Tax lists and city directories may give occupations. If we look thoroughly, we may find that an ancestor had more than one occupation, either two related occupations, such as carpenter and shipwright, or a skilled occupation in addition to being a farmer. The tools in a probate inventory may silently tell us an ancestor's occupation. The inventory and agricultural censuses tell us of the types of crops and livestock an ancestor raised.

Another marker is a **focused place of residence** (smaller than a county). Again, censuses, deeds, obituaries, and tax lists will help. For urban dwellers, death certificates and city directories may provide exact street addresses. The residence for farmers may be a named township, a township-range-section description, or the name of a waterway.

You should be specific about each marker. **Land ownership** is not necessarily the same as residence. Some men, as funds permitted, purchased land removed in distance from the "home place" with the intent of giving, selling, or willing it to their sons to get them started on their own place. On your list of markers indicate "residence" versus "land ownership."

At this point, it would be good to point out that you shouldn't add more to the marker than what is actually given in the source. If the census says "tool man," don't say "tool man at ABC Manufacturing." If another record tells you of the place of employment, list "employer: ABC Manufacturing." This helps prevent you from overlooking the fact that your ancestor left his job as a tool man at XYZ Manufacturing to take a job as a supervisor at ABC Manufacturing.

The **people in the lives of our ancestors** are important markers. I find it helpful to identify those people by specific type of connection and by year. I include locality if this is a migrating ancestor. For example, a deed might provide the following names:

Sarah () Smith (wife, 1791)
Stephen Simpson (sold Clear Creek land to, 1791)
John Jones (adjoining Clear Creek, 1791)
William Wilson (adjoining Clear Creek, 1791)
Adam Ackley (witness, 1791)
Benjamin Brown (witness, 1791)



Notice that I didn't mention the deed, go into the details, or add a citation. That all belongs elsewhere in your research files.

Don't neglect the **other persons** found in lists containing your ancestor's name. You've surely used the census in your research to record information about your ancestor, but have you collected the nearby names for your list of markers? I recommend doing ten households on each side of your ancestor. For lengthy lists of names, I sometimes note only surnames; I can add given names later if needed.

If you are adding markers from the 1850 or a subsequent census, the **state of birth of each child** may be a marker:

Virginia resident (1838)

Kentucky resident (1841, 1843, 1845)

Illinois resident (1848, 1850)

Needless to say, **kinship** is an important marker. The names of siblings, parents, spouses, and children are important markers. Our ancestors had extended kinship networks, so pay attention to in-laws also. Take care to be specific and not to add more than a record says:

John Jones (married daughter Jennie, 1788)

When we write our family narrative, this care will help us be accurate in what we say. For example, look at these two markers:

John Jones (married daughter Jennie, 1788)

John Jones (adjoining Clear Creek, 1791)

We would say, "In 1791, when he sold his land on Clear Creek, John Jones, husband of his daughter Jennie, was an adjoining landowner." But we would not say, "In 1788 his daughter Jennie married adjoining landowner John Jones," because we don't know that John Jones owned that land in 1788. By keeping markers separate and specific, we avoid small errors, which can grow into big ones.

The **church your ancestor attended** is a marker. Actually, it is two markers--the name of the church and the denomination. Membership in a **fraternal organization** is a marker, as is **society membership** of any kind. In turn, the membership of the church and organization may provide a list of persons who are markers for your ancestor. Did your ancestor have a **talent**? You may list as separate markers "played a cornet" and "was in John Philip Sousa's band."

In your haste to find relationships that fit on a family group sheet, don't neglect the **other persons found in records**, such as the doctor and the informant on a death certificate, the bondsmen or the official for a marriage, and the sponsors at a baptism.

The **cemetery** in which your ancestor was buried is a marker. If you can identify the **specific plot**, that's another marker.

Your ancestor's **signature or mark** can be an interesting marker. Collect as many original signatures as you can, but don't neglect the facsimile signatures found in record books such as county will books and deed books; many clerks tried to replicate unusual signatures and marks. It is useful to scan just the signatures for your markers file.

Markers related to wealth and social status (or lack thereof) may be found in **probate inventories, wills, tax lists, and some censuses**.

As is so often the case in good genealogical practice, collecting your ancestors' markers is about recognizing that our ancestors were people, not a collection of documents.

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of "Producing a Quality Family History".

<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=1644&key=P1024>

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Speaking of markers, your newsletter editor recently attended an excellent program given by our own Judy Voran at our July monthly meeting entitled: "Breaking Down Brick Walls". One of the sources she mentioned that might help was railroad records. Because I have several family members that worked for the railroad back in Wisconsin, it prompted me to find out more about how to tap into this rich resource. The following 2 articles are what I found on the internet. Marge Templeton, also a member of our society, has a book entitled "The Official Guide of the Railways" published by the National Railway Publication Co., which she is willing to share with other Society members. Here are two valuable reasons for becoming members of our society. ***So bring a friend with you to our next meeting August 5th!***

For those of you that have accessed this newsletter from our website, you can click onto one of the following links and go right to the site!

Railroad Records & Genealogical Information After 1936

From <http://www.rrb.gov/geneal.html>

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board administers a Federal retirement benefit program covering the nation's railroad workers. The records it maintains deal primarily with the administration and payment of these benefits. The Board will provide information from its records on deceased persons for the purpose of genealogical research. However, it will not release information on persons who are still living without the written consent of that person.

The fee for searching our records is currently \$27 for each employee on whom records are requested. The fee is payable before any search is attempted. It is not refundable, even if we are unable to locate the information requested or if the file has been destroyed. Your check or money order should be made payable to the Railroad Retirement Board, and sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

The Railroad Retirement Board, like the Social Security Administration, was not established until the mid-1930's, and it began maintaining its own records of all covered rail service in 1937. Therefore, the Board's service records are limited to individuals who worked in the rail industry after 1936. If a person was not actually working for a railroad after 1936, he or she would not be listed in these records. Nor would the Board generally have any pertinent records of persons whose rail service was performed on a casual

basis and/or was of short duration. Also, the Board's records are only on persons whose employers were covered under the Railroad Retirement Act. Employers such as street, interurban, or suburban electric railways are not covered under this Act.

The Board's records are kept by the railroad employee's social security number and a person's social security number often appears on his or her death certificate. In some cases, if that number is not available, having the employee's full name, including middle name or initial, and complete dates of birth and death may be of some help in determining whether we have any records of that person. However, in dealing with relatively common surnames, it is usually not possible to make a positive identification without the employee's social security number.

Requests for genealogical information should be sent directly to:



U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
Office of Public Affairs
844 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

Generally, the Board requires at least 30-60 days to reply to genealogical inquiries.

Railroad Records & Genealogical Information Before 1936

From <http://www.rrb.gov/geneal2.html>

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board is limited to individuals who worked in the rail industry after 1936. It is possible to [request](#) these records. Please do not contact us with requests for records before that date. We don't have that information. However we do know where some of the records are. In response to your inquiries we have compiled a list of depositories *that we are aware of* with railroad records. (Send additions or corrections to webmaster@rrb.gov)

These records are for historians and may not have information of interest to those doing family research. In addition, the records may not be indexed or available to genealogists. However, some collections include payroll records. Any information on the usefulness of these collections to genealogists would be appreciated.

Some Railroad Record Depositories

[Boston and Maine Railroad](#)

Although the primary focus of the collection is documentary material pertaining to the B&M RR and its corporate predecessors, the collection includes materials pertaining to the history of other New England railroads and electric railroads (trolley lines).

[Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen](#)

Grievance files for the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad from 1929-1960s

[Burlington Archives](#)

[Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company](#)

[Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway](#)

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire McIntyre Library has 4,000 personnel records of the Eau Claire depot of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway

[Nacogdoches and Southeastern Railroad Company](#)

[New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad](#)

[Norfolk and Western Railway and Southern Railway](#)

University Libraries at Virginia Tech holdings include records of the Norfolk and Western Railway and Southern Railway systems. These are pre-1930 archival records of the Norfolk and Western Railway,

along with the records of its predecessors and early subsidiaries, and the Southern Railway (which had merged with Norfolk and Western) along with the records of its predecessors and early subsidiaries. Together, the two collections include archival records for nearly three hundred railroads and related companies in the South and Midwest. These records comprise approximately 450 cubic feet of manuscript material spanning a century from the 1830s to the 1930s, with the greatest concentration of records in the late nineteenth century.

[Northern Pacific](#)

[Pullman Company Archives](#)

[Southern Railway](#)

Additional Useful Links

[National Archives and Records Administration](#) has records on railroad accidents.

Local [Historical Societies](#) are a good source for railroad information.

Cyndi's List has a [page of railroad resources](#) for genealogists.

[Frisco Papers](#)--independent collection of information regarding the St Louis-San Francisco Railway

Virginia Historical Society [Online Catalog](#)--numerous manuscript items relating to the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad

Follow their tracks! Here are some [railroad route maps](#) from the 1800s.

[Abbreviations, Trade Names, and Nicknames of Railroads](#) (*Past and Present*)

Combined [Average Monthly Compensation](#) by Occupation for the Period 1924-1931

Dictionary of [Railroad Slang](#)

Just the Facts, Ma'am!

Volunteer Hours & Patrons Helped

Some of our members attended the recently held Annual RSVP Dinner honoring the volunteers of the several organizations we have in the Payson Area. Your editor thought that you might be interested in just how many volunteer hours NGCGS accumulated last year compared to this year. It was also interesting to compare the number of patrons we served during the year 2003 to an extrapolated figure for the full year of 2004 based on usage for the first six months of 2004. Look at the chart below and give ourselves a clap on the back for the service we render to our patrons and to our community!!

Northern Gila County Genealogical Society Use Statistics

| Volunteer Hours: | | Inc/Dec % | # of Patrons: | | Inc/Dec % |
|---|------|------------------|---|-----|------------------|
| January to December 2003 | | 2003-2004 | January to December 2003 | | 2003-2004 |
| Total Volunteer Hours: | 2713 | | Total Patrons: | 283 | |
| Monthly Average: | 271 | | Monthly Average: | 24 | |
| January thru June 2004 | | | January thru June 2004 | | |
| Total Volunteer Hours: | 1203 | | Total Patrons: | 407 | |
| Monthly Average: | 200 | | Monthly Average: | 68 | |
| Extrapolated Jan. thru Dec. 2004 | | | Extrapolated Jan. thru Dec. 2004 | | |
| Total Volunteer Hours: | 2400 | -11.50% | Total Patrons: | 816 | 288% |
| Monthly Average: | 200 | | Monthly Average: | 68 | |

Thanks goes to Alice Kenmore, our President, for tabulating these results!

Newly Donated Materials for our Library Compiled by Volunteer Librarian, Sue Owens

We wish to THANK the generosity of each of the following people for their donations to our library. The following titles are representative only of the materials donated. Stop by on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to look through all the new acquisitions!

Donations by Opal Fallin:

- "Pierce's Register", 17th Report of S.S.D.A.R, 1987. A Register of Certificates issued by John Pierce, Esquire, Paymaster General & Commissioner of Army Accounts for the U.S. to Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army under Act of July 4, 1783. All in alphabetical order.
- "The Pension List of 1820", an indexed edition showing a report of the Names, Rank and Line of every person on the Pension List in pursuance of the Act of 18th Mass., 1818.
- "Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds" by Willard Rouse Jellson, Sr. A complete index to all of the Earliest Land Entries, Military Warrants, Deeds and Wills of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- "North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index 1665-1900 by Thornton W. Mitchell. In alphabetical order.

Donations by Jayne Peace & Jinx Pyle:

- N. C. Taxpayers 1679-1790, Vol. II, compiled by Clarence K. Ratcliff. Names of Taxpayers listed in alphabetical order for easy reference.
- "Kentucky Pioneers and Their Descendants" compiled by Ila Earle Fowler. Includes county records and family records.

Donations by Twilla Beck:

- "Paper Pickin' from St. Louis, Mo. "Republican", Vol. I, 2 July 1836 to June 1837-Indexed; Vol. II, 20 March 1862-27 Oct. 1864 from St. Joseph, Mo. "Weekly Herald"; Vol. III, 10 March 1870-Feb. 1878 (1876 excluded) from "Carthage Banner"
- Twilla Beck's personal records on Johnson, Caldwell, Disney, Richardson, Russell, Beames, etc. Surnames.

Donations by the Payson Family History Center:

- "Worcestershire Parish Register Society" published in 1915. The registers of Eastham with Hanley Child and Orleton and Hanley William in the Deanery of Burford 1572-1812.
- "Staffordshire Parish Register Society" Index to Pipe Ridware Parish Register, Deanery of Rugsley.
- "Worcestershire Parish Registry of 1693-1811 published in 1913.

Donation by Peggy Gray:

- C.D. ROM of Revolutionary War Index to Pension and Bounty Land Warrants.



George says: "We will gratefully accept your genealogical donations, too!"

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Genealogy Classes Being Held on Saturdays in August, September, and October.
Each Class is \$20; Contact Sarah Nelson at 474-555 (GCC) for registration and information on the class content. Enrollment must be 5 or more.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| August 14 | Advanced Family Tree Maker | Gila Community College | 1:30-3:30 |
| Sept. 25 | Free Genealogy Internet Sites | Gila Community College | 1:00-4:00 |
| Oct. 30 | More Free Genealogy Internet Sites | Gila Community College | 1:00-4:00 |

These are all interactive computer classes. The Free Genealogy Internet Sites were offered this last spring and will cover the same material for those of you that missed these two popular classes taught by Judy Voran and Val Sullivan.

The Advanced Family Tree Maker class is being offered for those interested in creating a family history book, exporting trees and reports, creating GedCom files, privatizing your files, creating a Family Home Page on the Internet, and Sharing your Family History.

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