

# The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.  
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

**ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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## ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, LA

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: [altgenealogy.com/join.htm](http://altgenealogy.com/join.htm) for details.

**Statement of Publication:** *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at [thegenie.editor@gmail.com](mailto:thegenie.editor@gmail.com). Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

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Email articles for *The Genie* to: [thegenie.editor@gmail.com](mailto:thegenie.editor@gmail.com)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Contributed by Leonard Gresens*

I have been an officer in many organizations where usually most of the responsibilities fall on the shoulders of one person who soon becomes overwhelmed and burned out; however, that is not so with the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. My transition into being president of the ALTGA was simple and easy. Thanks to our great board of directors and outgoing president, Glenda Bernard, I was able to ease into the responsibility (with a lot of help). This board is working hard to continue to bring its members informative programs to help in the research of family history.

Starting 2019 off at our January meeting, ALTGA member **Martha Fitzgerald** spoke to our group and shared her book *The Courtship of Two Doctors*. The love story of her parents was taken from the many letters the two exchanged over the years they were separated while in different medical schools in different states and then later as they both spent more time apart during their internships. Her talk entitled "Shaping Family Letters into a Book" discussed the nine-step process she used to write the book. Martha, a professional writer, enlightened us on how to take those family letters and use them to create a family treasure that can be passed down to family members.

Each month we feature a member or members to share with us their research. In January, we chose **Lisa Nelson** who showed us her hand-drawn family tree chart, a treasure that only other genealogist researchers could appreciate. She also shared a few items found in the family attic, along with information of an ancestor who was a pilot in the early 1900s. Most interesting was her connection to an ancestor who started the Genevieve Orphanage in Shreveport, named for his young daughter who died after swallowing an eye off her china doll.

Another monthly feature is "Bits and Pieces," brought to us by **Sonja Webb**. She discussed artifact DNA, which at this time is expensive, but could possibly unlock many secrets in those old letters of Grandma's. There is DNA on them which could help to break down those brick walls we all hit at one time or another.

ALTGA member **Phil Adderley** presented the "Horn Book" session and gave "Tips for Archival Research." Phil pointed out that having a plan and the right equipment is essential when visiting a research facility. The use of a tripod, shutter releases, and extra power packs are a must. Demonstrating professionalism is as easy as bringing your own gloves to handle documents, showing that you take research seriously. Filling out the forms completely and, if possible, doing as much as you can the night before will save valuable time, and always keep in mind that each facility has its own processes to follow.

February is Black History Month and our meeting followed suit. There was no “Bits and Pieces” on the agenda for this month, so we jumped right into the featured speakers, **Albert and Sarah Dennis**, both ALTGA members who live in Grambling, Louisiana, and are both involved with Grambling University. They presented an informative, extensive slide show highlighting old family photographs from both sides of the family as well as family tree research from their South Louisiana history, most of which revolved around the area surrounding Hammond, Louisiana.

For our “Horn Book” presentation, we continued our Black History month insight with ALTGA member **Margrett Ford**. This was a follow-up from her talk last year on “Researching the Ferrell Ancestors.” This presentation titled, “What’s In a Name” was about the various ways of spelling and pronouncing Farrell/Ferrell, causing a few speed bumps in her research. Without a doubt, Margrett will continue in her research, and she tells us she will update us later with any new discoveries.

With spring storms looming about us, the March meeting went off without a hitch. After a few announcements and “Bits and Pieces” presented by **Sonja Webb**, we introduced the featured speaker, **Rusty Beckham**, a history teacher at Benton High School. His talk was a shortened version of a four-week lecture which he had previously presented at the Bossier History Center last July on the 1918 Flu Epidemic that erupted during World War I at Camp Funston in Kansas. The pandemic likely originated in the United States, most likely Kansas, and because of troop movements during the war, the pandemic traveled to Europe, especially France and Spain. From there it was transmitted to nearly every continent. Most effected was the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Eventually the whole city of Philadelphia was overwhelmed.

Most interestingly was the effect it had on President Woodrow Wilson, who contracted the flu while in France for the Paris peace talks. As a progressive, Wilson looked to balance diplomacy in Europe and disavowed any malice toward Germany. But afterward his bout with the influenza, his demeanor changed, causing some to speculate that this was likely due to neurological problems brought on by the influenza, causing him thus to side with France in punishing Germany. With no other alternative, Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles to end the war, only to be bitterly criticized by fellow Germans. The years after the treaty was ratified, Adolf Hitler rose to power and remilitarized Germany which led to World War II. Rusty’s was a powerful, insightful 90-minute program.

Our first quarter has been a very successful one and with a full calendar of programs planned for the remainder of 2019, it should be good year.



# “First, do no harm . . .”<sup>1</sup>

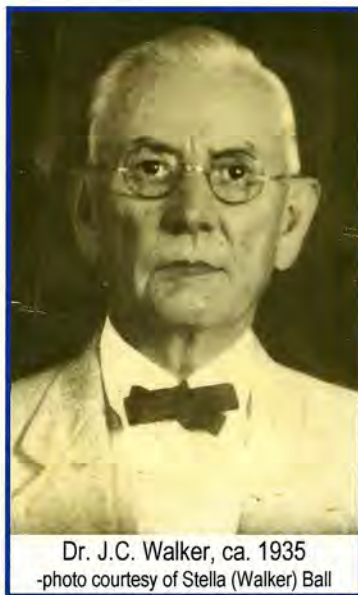
## an essay about two Walkerville (AR) physicians

by Ken Dailey, ALTGA member since 2014

**T**he schooling/training required to be a medical doctor in the rural south in 1900 was considerably less than that which is expected of physicians today. Nevertheless, local doctors served a critical need.

Due to the distance from a larger town and the means of transportation, which would largely have consisted of a horse and wagon, rural folks at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century had to rely on local M.D.s for both minor and serious ailments.

Often, several doctors served local agricultural populations and the community of Walkerville, Arkansas, in Columbia County, was no exception. A comparison and contrast of the two most prominent of the half-dozen or so doctors practicing in the south Arkansas community follows:



Dr. J.C. Walker, ca. 1935  
-photo courtesy of Stella (Walker) Ball

**Dr. John Calvin Walker** (04-16-1867 / 03-24-1939) and **Dr. Walter Scott McMahan** (04-25-1856 / 03-06-1950) were Walkerville residents and contemporaries. Each had a successful practice. Dr. Walker, for whom Walkerville derived its name around 1910, was a meticulous keeper of records, and in 1919 to 1920 his patient load increased to 446.<sup>2</sup> Dr. McMahan, too, kept busy, although his activities exist largely through the recollections of those who were acquainted with him and through a few



Dr. W.S. McMahan, ca. 1948  
-Dr. McMahan was the writer's great-grandfather-

notes written by Dr. Walker in his journal.

No artifacts of Dr. McMahan's practice are known to have survived.

**Stella (Walker) Edwards-Ball** is a granddaughter of J.C. Walker. She possesses several ledgers and documents kept by the good doctor. Stella and her husband live in the original 1900 home built by Dr. Walker. The two-story house sits at the intersection of AR hwy. #19S and Columbia Co. road #80 at Walkerville. Stella made those ledgers and documents available to the writer. The following are some anecdotes and facts about the two doctors:

1) A phrase often presumed to be contained in *The Hippocratic Oath*, to which modern doctors prescribe. Authorities disagree as to the phrase's inclusion.

2) Walker, Gaylord L., Early Days: A history of Walkerville, Arkansas at the turn of the century, (an undisclosed publisher, 1990's), p. 27



## COLLEAGUES

Even a physician needed doctoring every now and then. A ledger labeled "1931-1934" contains a page of debits and credits with the name "McMahen, Scott" at the top. In Nov. of 1932, Walker lists surgery to "Self" (McMahen) for a "dog bite to the hand." It is likely that Dr. McMahan reciprocated occasionally with medical services to Dr. Walker. It would be hard to remove one's own appendix.

## COMPETITORS

Pages in Dr. Walker's ledger typically bore the name of the head of a household at the top. Dates and a brief description of services along with the charges were placed on the left-hand side. Payments were placed on the right-hand side.

Sharecropping was a common economic system at the time, and those sharecroppers were predominately, although not exclusively, of African descent. In all but one case in his ledger, the services to Negroes were placed under the name of the head of a household who housed the black family on his or her land. It fell to the land owner to pay the medical bills incurred by the sharecropper and his family. When fall crops were sold, the landowner deducted the cost of those medical services from the portion due the sharecropper for his year of hard work. Certainly, there were land owners who treated tenants fairly, but at best, the uneven economic playing field often left the tenants too indebted to leave or better their standard of living. Since payment by the landlord was a sure thing, medical services, such as setting bones, pulling teeth, or assisting with childbirth to tenant families were coveted by the physician.

In this tenor, Dr. Walker wrote in pencil into the credit side of Dr. McMahan's journal page shortly before the end of 1933, "Paid by agreement by donation for Negroes. Ask[ed] me not to ever go to see Negroes anymore." And then in ink, he added, "Donated to McMahan for Negroes by request. \$30.50." "Refused."<sup>3</sup>

After all, professional courtesy can only be extended so far!

## COLLECTIONS

Barter was common, especially during the years of the Great Depression. Goats, chickens, cotton, peanuts, corn, and services of all kinds were credited toward a family's medical bills. Labor done for Dr. Walker erased about \$2.00 a day from the indebtedness – a little more if the debtor provided his own mule team.

**Mrs. Doris (Broom) Johnson**, who is 95 and a resident of Walkerville, recalls that her father, **Harry Broom**, collected and planted live oak saplings in Dr. Walker's yard in lieu of cash for medical bills.<sup>4</sup> Those trees are now more than 100 years old.

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3) Ibid., p. 59

4) As told to the writer by Doris (Broom) Johnson, 2003



A tooth extraction went for 50¢, house calls \$1.50, and obstetrics typically cost the new parents around \$7.50. These prices seem cheap by today's standards, but adjusted for inflation, they somewhat mirror modern costs.

### CURES and COMFORT

In 1908, the writer's grandfather, **W.F. "Billy" Dailey**, required medical attention for his family as noted:

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Baby"
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Baby"
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Baby"
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Baby"
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Baby"

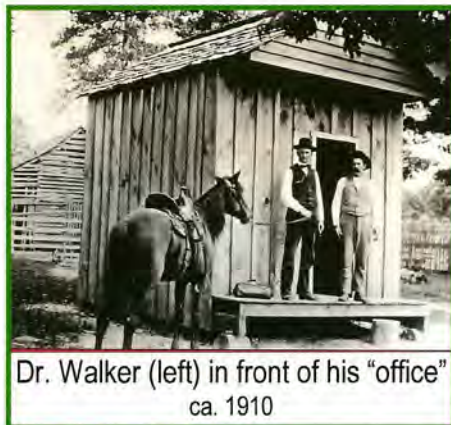
The baby's name is not noted, but research reveals that Billy's fifth child, a girl, was born the previous January.

In the 1909 ledger, under the heading, "Billy Dailey" we again see that services are rendered:

Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	"For one visit to Alton"
Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	"For one visit to Alton"

Again, no description of the medical affliction was entered, but regarding four-year-old **Alton B. Dailey** (the writer's father), we can imagine he had a fever, the measles, influenza, or any profusion of childhood diseases as the reason for the house call.

**Billy Joyce (Dailey) Smith** (the writer's sister) recalls a visit to Dr. Walker's one-room clinic which sat near the road in front of his house. The occasion of the visit was to remove a cotton seed that she had shoved too far up her nose.<sup>5</sup>



Dr. Walker (left) in front of his "office"  
ca. 1910

### CONCLUSIONS

The preserved records of Dr. Walker recall a simpler time. The records reflect attempts to bring comfort at birth, in prime, and at the end-of-life. They bear names of families we still call *neighbors*. They are more than balance sheets. They chronicle a unique history of a community's people. They were our families and they were and are our friends.



Stella Walker Ball holds one of her grandfather's ledgers in the house he built.

Dr. J.C. Walker is interred in the Old Shongaloo Cemetery on LA hwy. #159. He died of injuries sustained in an auto accident.  
Dr. W.S. McMahan is buried in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery (Col. Co. rd. #26) southwest of Emerson, AR. He died of natural causes.

5) As told to the writer by Billy Joyce (Dailey) Smith, 2008



## Ruth Remembers A Universal Solvent "Water Logged"

Contributed by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin



### RUTH REMEMBERS A UNIVERSAL SOLVENT "WATER LOGGED"

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

"Water is a universal solvent, Mother," Lillie said when I told her how little effect my mopping had had on the floor. I was preparing for a visit from my cousin, Linda Alice Roberts Brownlee. Mop, as I would, the floor always looked just as pitiful.

"Why do you tell me a statement like that? What do you mean by it? How does that help me improve the Appearance of my kitchen floor?" I asked.

"Well," she said, "When Charles and I were living in that upstairs apartment, we had a man from the water company deliver a new five-gallon jar of water. He left it sitting on the floor beside the stand which held the bottle."

"Two or three days later, John, the maintenance man, came by. We asked him to put the large jar of water on the stand. I could not lift it; and Charles did not need to."

"John is always gracious and cheerful about helping us. Charles had sent him to Dr. Cooksie, the eye doctor, to have his eyes examined and bought him two new pairs of glasses. So, he was eager to help us."

"Well, John grabbed the bottle. In an effort to get the top down and the bottom up, John hit the bottle against the corner of the kitchen cabinet. It broke the bottle. Water and glass went everywhere, including the kitchen floor."

"I ran for towels. Charles grabbed the mop. John stood there trying to figure out what happened. Water was in his shoes; and his pants were wet up to his knees."

"Suddenly, we heard loud stomping steps on the stairs. Then the door bell began ringing; and someone began beating on the door. I ran to the door; and there stood the women who lived beneath us."

"Did you all set off a bomb?" she screamed. Then she coughed and gasped for breath. "That explosion nearly scared me to death! About the time I was getting my breath, water came rushing down the walls of my apartment."

She gasped, wheezed, and looked around the place. "What in the world are you all doing up here? I'm an old woman. I shouldn't be climbing these stairs."

"When the poor old woman got her breath, I told her that we had broken a five-gallon bottle of water and was trying to get it up. After inspecting the water standing on the floor about half-an-inch deep, she returned to her apartment



Linda Alice Roberts  
Brownlee

grumbling about the trouble cleaning up the mess would be."

"Mother," Lillie said, "Charles, I, and even John have mopped and mopped that floor. It made little difference. But I learned that day that you must put deep water on the floor so that the sand can rise and be washed away."

"Mother, when you mop, you slosh the mop up and down in the water in the mop-bucket. Next you wring the mop's head until it is almost dry. Then you drag that damp mop around on a dirty floor and just move the dirt around."

"I tell you, Mother, if you want your floor really clean, put lots and lots of plain old water on it so that water is standing. When you mop up the water, you will be amazed at the wonderful, fresh, appearance of your kitchen floor."

I thanked Lillie for that valuable information. I filed it for use in the future.

But at that particular time and after our conversation ended, I picked up the phone. I called Weil Cleaners and ordered kitchen and bathroom floor cleaning to my already order of cleaning the carpets and the Venetian blinds in the house.

My floors were clean when the company arrived a few days later.

### POSTSCRIPT

Linda Alice, nee Malinda Alice, was my visitor when my floors were cleaned by Weil Cleaners. Linda and Woodie, her husband, have visited numerous times through the years. There have been direct visits of a day or two; and there have been passing-through-to-Mississippi-and-farther-east visits.

They were here one night last October, 2016, on a passing-through visit. On one here, they went with Marilyn, Jerry (husband of my sister), and me to Vicksburg to visit the grave of Linda's great grandfather, General Garrott. Our common grandfather, John Clark Roberts, also served as an officer in the Confederacy, but lived to "tell the tale."

Linda's birth was a special joy to my father. She was the youngest grandchild of Malinda Jane Standlee and John Clark Roberts. She was a girl. She had blue eyes. Her hair was blonde. She was the only child of Daddy's older brother, Standlee. Uncle Standlee, unmarried for years, and since my birth, chided Daddy for having a blonde, blue-eyed girl, as a first child. He pointed out that each of their married siblings' first child was a brunette, brown-eyed boy. And here he was, at age fifty, with a wife and a blonde, blue-eyed baby girl. Daddy loved it!

Linda grew up in Denton, Texas, where three Roberts uncles (John, Pat, and Ector) helped Standlee guide his daughter. She heard all the family stories in four versions. She kept up with all the relatives and opened her Garland, Texas, home to them. One Spring, a group of us met in Garland and attended the theater where Linda had the lead, the "staring role," in the play. That was a great weekend! She has been hostess to several mini-reunions—cousin reunions—from time to time. It was at one of these parties my shoe soles "flew the coop."

Linda passed away April 26, 2015, after a very short illness. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

## DNA Privacy

*Contributed by Glenn Moore*

A few months ago, I did a Horn Book video presentation on DNA privacy, wherein the hosts of that video were allowed to explore the procedures of one of the top four DNA testing companies in America. In that video, several interesting bits of information were discussed, and one in particular was what is done with your saliva sample after it is tested. More importantly, are your rights to privacy upheld and respected. In my limited research of privacy issues concerning DNA, that all depends on the testing company you choose. And most, if not all of these testing companies, have what is called TOS, which is the acronym for “terms of service,” and those TOS are all written in language that gives the companies broad control over your genetic information. In other words, they can use and or sell your information to third-party entities. The four major companies all allow you to opt in or out of sharing your information for the benefit of medical science. Now bear in mind that they all claim that you own your DNA, and they do not.

That seven letter word “privacy,” in my opinion, is more closely associated with the silent and baby-boomer generations, where we tended to be more cautious about who had or could get our private information, e.g., medical and adoption records, insurance company records, and credit bureau reports. But with the advent of social media and the worldwide connectedness that the millennials and generation Z enjoy, they seem not to be as concerned about their privacy, as I have witnessed with my own children. So when it comes to privacy, it has to be an individual's, and in some cases, a family's choice. Do we give up some privacy so that we can find genetically-connected relatives that we did not know existed or allow law enforcement to crack cold cases that probably would continue to go unsolved if not for the use of all of our DNA collectively? For me, I'm willing to sacrifice a portion of my privacy to obtain the latter. And let's face it, do we really have privacy like we had twenty years ago before the widespread use of the internet? I think not. So my advice to my generation, the baby boomers, is to keep on sharing those online trees, continue to get family members, especially the older ones, to take DNA tests, and continue to enjoy your new found discoveries.





## HIGHLIGHTING OUR HIGHLIGHTER

*Contributed by Leonard Gresens*

If you haven't been greeted by Johnnie Covington, that only means you haven't been to a meeting in a while. Standing her post at each meeting, she greets everyone who enters the door. She gives instruction, directions and, if asked, her opinion. What an asset to our group.

Born and raised in the Cedar Grove neighborhood of Shreveport, a community in itself during her youth, Johnnie graduated from Woodlawn (Knights) High School, where she participated in speech courses, drama club, and debate. This is where she received her love of gab. After graduation, she attended Northwestern State and LSU Shreveport majoring in Speech Education and English. Teaching became her profession at a parochial school where she taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for several years.

Her family moved to Benton, Louisiana, where they built a home on Black Bayou Lake. She later gave up teaching and began to work for the Bossier Sheriff Department working at the jail. She jokes that working at the jail was like teaching junior high students. She eventually graduated from the police academy and received a Criminal Justice degree from Bossier Parish Community College. She was the first female assigned to the detective division. All because of that gift of gab, she discovered her ability to interrogate and interview. Don't mess with Johnnie!

In 1999 after a motorcycle accident which left her partially disabled, she retired... but not really. She worked another 10 years at a local truancy center.

Being fully retired now hasn't kept Johnnie down. She stays busy taking classes at the library, working in her yard, volunteering at local theaters and the tourist bureau, traveling, helping neighbors, being active in Neighborhood Watch (there's that law enforcement coming out), cooking, writing (she interviews and highlights our members in the **Genie**) reading, watching True Crime, the Food Network, TMC, studying history, birdwatching, photography, and helping her granddaughter with her three great-grandsons. (Whew, and I thought I was busy!)

Oh yeah, and she's doing genealogy. After having her DNA tested by Ancestry, she learned she is 41% Europe West, which is France (Alsace) and 35% Ireland (Mt. Conly, County Antrim, Northern Ireland). She has a couple of books to help her understand more about her ancestors: *An Irish Stowaway* c. 1976 by Dr. Garnie W. McGinty and Etoyle Conly and *Genealogy of the Leche-Lesch0-Laiche Family in Louisiana from 1759 to 2010* by Dr. Frederic A. Youngs, Jr., who taught history in the 70s and 80s at LSU, and who also was later ordained in 1990 as a Roman Catholic priest.

Johnnie is a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which helped prove her mother's ancestor, Robert Johnson, served in the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A. and fell at the Battle of Franklin, TN, one of a few Civil War battles taking place at night. Johnnie is researching the names, Conly, Leshe, Johnson, Hall, Green, Cox and Covington.

# Highlighting Our Members

*Contributed by Johnnie Covington*

**Sarah Zeagler White** now lives in Haughton but is originally from Monroe. She is retired from the Social Security Department after having worked in Louisiana Welfare and Social Security for many years. Sarah and her husband have three grown daughters and three grandchildren, a 13-year-old granddaughter and 16-year-old-twin grandsons. Sarah enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, and being with her grandchildren. She and her husband sometimes explore local cemeteries and photograph tombstones which they have shared with FindAGrave. Sarah said many of these cemeteries are so overgrown that it is dangerous to go into them during “snake season.” Sarah became interested in her genealogy when she first heard of a direct ancestor's being involved in a murder. She and her daughters are still trying to figure that one out! The family names that Sarah is interested in learning more about are Trynahan, Zeagler, Oliveaux, and Cornett. She knows that some of her French ancestors entered the U.S. at New Orleans and lived in a small community called French Settlement. By coincidence, my French relatives did the same—entered at New Orleans and lived at French Settlement.



**Sonja Webb** is a long-time member of ALTGA and has served the association in a number of capacities. She enjoys researching the names Dowling, McLeskey, Glover, and Waid. Sonja laughed and said she had heard that one of her ancestors changed “Waid” to “Wade” because he got tired of people asking why there was an “i” in “Wade.” Sonja was born in Mobile, and she and her husband go back fairly often to Alabama and to Mississippi for genealogical research.

Sonja graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and earned her B.A. at Louisiana Tech. Later at LSU, she was awarded her Master of History/Secondary Education degree. She earned her second master's degree at Centenary in administration. Sonja is now a retired Caddo Parish teacher but taught 11<sup>th</sup> grade American History for many years. She then taught fellow teachers Instructional Technology for ten years.

During the summers, Sonja furthered her education. For three summers, she was on archeological digs at Monticello, and another summer she spent at Stratford Hall, the home of “Light Horse Harry” Lee. Sonja even studied in Israel on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Sonja and her husband have two grown children and three grandchildren and spend as much time as possible with them. She also likes photography and working with computers.

**Reed Mathews** grew up in Shreveport and graduated from Byrd High School. He attended LSUS, receiving his undergraduate degree in computer science; he worked in database programming for ten years. He then attended LSU and earned his Master's Degree of Library Science. Reed began his library work downtown at the main library in the reference department. He later moved to the Broadmoor Branch, where he has worked in genealogy the last ten years. Reed is a lifetime member of Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association and has served on its board for over twenty years. He is most interested in researching the names **Mathews**, spelled with only one "t", and **Rogers**, his mother's name. Some of Reed's ancestors were French Protestants, tradesmen who were cast out of England and forced to be farmers in America. Their name is **Sasseen**.

Reed loves to read, especially nonfiction. He is currently working on a history of China. He is also interested in Oriental rugs; he often shops estate sales and antique shops. He once found two such old rugs in pretty good shape and knew they were from Iran. He didn't want to pay what the seller was asking, so he waited a while until the seller reduced the price. He bought both the rugs, then took them to New Orleans, where an expert with ANTIQUES ROADSHOW confirmed that the rugs were Iranian tribal work and at least 100 years old. The appraiser said Reed made a very good bargain.

Reed often walks along the Clyde Fant Parkway and enjoys bird watching while he's exercising and getting fresh air.



## RECIPES FROM AN EARLY AMERICAN COOKBOOK

*Contributed by Paula Sen*

I want to showcase a collage of photos from three of the cookbooks in my collection. The cookbooks have sketches of old timey kitchen implements and historical cooking tidbits (some from the Vincent Price cookbook). The first one features historical American recipes. There are sections on early America, the young Republic, antebellum America, and Victorian America. The second is a book on old low country (southeastern U.S) cooking. I like to imagine the recipes reflect what some of my O'Neal ancestors ate while in the area between the late 1700s to early 1800s. The third book I bought at the annual Centenary book sale. I bought it based on the title **Dinner on the Ground**. I figured it had good potluck recipes. I was particularly interested in trying to recreate my late grandmother's (nee Maxine O'Neal) chicken and dumplings.

A couple of months later, I cracked open the book and was ecstatic on two points. The preface of the book points out the book was put together by the Alabama Presbyterian Church in Sibley, Louisiana, where some of my grandmother's O'Neal ancestors attended before the Civil War. I'm sure the enclosed photo from the book depicting a 1911 dinner on the ground includes some of my distant relatives. Second, I tried the chicken and dumplings recipe (from the low country cookbook) and discovered the reason for the gray cast to my grandmother's excellent chicken and dumplings; it's pepper, lots and lots of black pepper. There is more pepper than salt in the recipe. If you try this recipe, you may want to adjust the pepper and salt ratio to suit your taste. Enjoy!





**CLAM FRITTERS**

3 dozen cherrystone clams  
Salt and pepper  
1¼ cups milk  
2 eggs, separated

½ teaspoon salt  
1¼ cups all-purpose flour  
Fat for frying

Wash the clams and arrange them in a large kettle. Add water to cover and simmer until the shells open. Drain, and run cold water over the clams. Remove them from the shells and chop coarsely. (Makes about 1½ cups chopped clams.) Sprinkle the clams with salt and pepper. Beat egg yolks; blend in milk, the ½ teaspoon salt, and flour. Beat egg whites stiff. Fold them into flour mixture. Stir in clams. Using a tablespoon, drop batter into hot fat. Fry, turning to brown both sides. Drain on paper towels. Makes 6 generous servings.

**FRIED CLAMS**

3 dozen steamer clams  
½ teaspoon salt  
⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
3 egg yolks

2 tablespoons light cream  
1 cup fine cracker crumbs  
Butter

Wash clams and steam them in boiling water until the shells open. Remove them from the shell, rinse, drain well on paper towels. Sprinkle the clams with salt and cayenne pepper. Beat together the egg yolks and cream. Dip clams in the egg mixture, then roll in cracker crumbs, coating well. Heat butter in a skillet. Fry the clams until lightly browned on both sides, adding more butter from time to time as needed. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.



*poultry***POT O' CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS****CHICKEN**

**1 large hen**  
**3 quarts water**  
**1-1/2 teaspoons pepper**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**2 chicken bouillon cubes**  
**2 Tablespoons margarine**

Cut hen into quarters. Place in 6 quart pot. Cover with water. Add pepper, salt and bouillon cubes. Cook over medium-high heat until meat will separate from bone. Remove chicken from broth. Let cool. Remove bones from chicken. There should be 8-9 cups broth in which to cook dumplings. (Additional seasoning may be added to broth at this time. Broth should be highly seasoned to make dumplings flavorful.) Return boned chicken to broth and add margarine.

**DUMPLINGS**

**3 cups flour**  
**6 Tablespoons shortening**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**2 eggs**  
**2/3 cup water**

To make dumplings, combine flour shortening and salt. Blend by cutting shortening into flour with pastry blender. Beat eggs and water together. Gradually add to flour mixture. Stir to make soft dough. Divide dough into 2 equal parts for ease of handling. Roll out dough on generously floured board. Dough should be rolled into very, very thin sheets. Let sheets of dough dry out for 10-15 minutes. Brush excess flour from dough. Cut into 1-1/2 inch squares.

Bring broth to rolling boil. Begin dropping squares of dough, a few at a time, into broth. Stir gently as dumplings are added to broth to prevent dough from sticking together. When desired amount of dough is in broth, reduce heat and simmer on medium-low until dumplings are firm.

**Serves 10**



## ALTGA's Horn-Book: "Tips for Archival Research"

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ALTGA General Session of 12 January 2019  
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Large repositories like the National Archives and various state archives intimidate first time researchers. One hardly knows where to begin when you walk in the door.<sup>1</sup> *What* to research, based on the repository's holdings, is often the subject of lectures at national and regional conferences. Many repositories also offer their own courses and lectures. These focus largely upon content, giving researchers ideas on what material to target for research planning purposes. For first timers, however, it is better to put this horse before the cart: How to research archival holdings from a broad perspective is important. It is the focus of this hornbook session.

### A Gatherer's Mindset

For the typical researcher seeking to expand a family genealogy or lineage, there is a tendency to analyze as one plows through research material, document by document. In an archival setting this can be a time consuming, repetitive, and very expensive effort, *if considerable travel and a broad research plan is involved.* Instead, focus upon ***gathering*** information while on site, deferring the reading and analyzing of key items either overnight or upon return home. This researcher found the approach of great benefit, but it will feel strange and uncomfortable at first.

The following pattern is familiar to us all: in the absence of a gathering mindset, a researcher seeks out the target subject(s) within the material, often with the help of indexes, then copying or imaging those parts in which positive discoveries appear.<sup>2</sup> A *Gatherer*, on the other hand, accepts that if a target subject is likely present in a location or in record collection for a given timeframe, the time is better spent throwing a wide net over the collection. Here are two illustrations:

- Tax lists: Do **not** read each tax list. Instead, ***gather*** digital or image copies of **every** page (or fragment). If the targets are discovered later, the researcher has at her disposal many potential kinship group members and neighbors. This approach also permits the researcher to reread the list multiple times to ensure that no targets are inadvertently overlooked.
- Deed record books: Consider **not** reading each deed. Instead, ***gather*** digital or image copies of all deed record book entries of all target and potential kinship group surnames.

<sup>1</sup> The seemingly simplest of things—like walking through the correct exterior door—can save an hour or two at the main branch of National Archives. Pre-planning your trip to this and other repositories for the first timer requires more than just research planning.

<sup>2</sup> Of course, the researcher will also copy the cover, title, chapter heading, copyright information, forewords/prefaces, abbreviation legends, etc., right? By the way, what does the researcher copy when no positive discoveries are made?

It sounds time consuming up front, but the result may be a treasure trove of kinship group records that can be researched many times over.

## The Gatherer's Essential Tool

A Gatherer needs one essential tool—effective, high-speed, high quality, digital imaging.<sup>3</sup> “High speed” from the writer’s standpoint means that s/he can capture or shoot an image within the time needed to (a) turn a page, (b) insert a new sheet or object, (c) advance microfilm to the next frame, etc., with little discernable delay. Some archival repositories supply such imaging systems, but these are presently the exception rather than the rule. Those that supply them find them heavily used, and sometimes difficult to use effectively without prior experience. This can lead to bottlenecks.

Therefore, for the present the Gatherer-Researcher should supply his or her own imaging equipment. Most but not all archival repositories will allow a researcher to digitize some—but not all—holdings. Homework is needed before visiting to determine the repository’s limitations.

The *simplest equipment* needed is a cellphone or tablet device equipped with a digital camera that can collect images with typical room lighting without flash. Low-light and auto-focus imaging is desired, and these are frequently part of today’s mid- to high-end devices. In the simplest approach, the writer simply handholds the device for the shot, but each image needs to be checked for focus, because the device’s auto-focus feature can be defeated if the device moves at shutter release.

Additional items are highly recommended to stabilize the camera and facilitate rapid imaging—as fast as turning a page or placing the object/sheet within the camera’s field of view:<sup>4</sup>

1. An adjustable tripod with soft-grip footpads, capable of extending from a floor or table-top. Some repositories do not have sufficient space for a tripod on a table-top. For example, digital images of a microfilm frame, or textual records laid out on a slanted wooden dais require a floor-based tripod. Soft-grip footpads are needed to avoid scarring tabletops.
2. Adjustable clamps to hold a cell phone or imaging device. The heavier the device, the more likely the user will also need a counter-weighted boom. A boom is unnecessary for typical cellphone cameras, but heavier devices like tablets, pads, and some digital cameras may depend upon a counterweighted boom to avoid toppling. The writer has been able to clamp an iPad to a tripod and adjust the tripod legs to achieve the necessary balance without a boom, however.

<sup>3</sup> By this the writer rules out traditional microfilm reader-scanner-printer setups found at almost every archival repository. The quality of the images captured and printed is often hit or miss, and the machines are prone to failure. It is not unusual for a researcher to test multiple machines to see which are suitable for basic copying purposes. The image quality usually is not granular enough to examine the material in minute detail, especially important for signature and handwriting analysis.

<sup>4</sup> No matter the speed of image collection, the Gatherer-Researcher must still discipline him- or herself to spot-check the quality of the images at periodic intervals to ensure things like focus and field of view were adequate for the documents being imaged.

3. An app with a bubble-level feature to “level” the device’s camera. Such an app can also check the “level” of the table or target surface. The intention is to have the device camera roughly parallel to the item being imaged.<sup>5</sup> Some camera apps can overcome out-of-level imaging by allowing the human to frame the object manually, this requires intervention, slowing the gathering process. “Leveling” or “paralleling” the camera relative to the target collects a truer, undistorted image of it, reducing the need for special apps or tweaking.
4. A remote shutter release to enable the Gatherer-Researcher to shoot the target while remaining seated and using her/his hands to frame, hold-down, or prop up the target. This in turn allows her/him to quickly advance to the next page, object, microfilm frame, etc. Bluetooth wireless shutter releases are available for both Apple and Android devices. Without a remote shutter release, the Gatherer-Researcher should bring smooth, non-marring paper-weights to help hold down target materials without fear of damaging them, but this will slow the gathering process. Check with the repository to ensure that they are permitted.
5. A power bank and connection cable for the digital imaging device so that one does not depend on the repository for electrical power, and the device does not shutdown for lack of power during the day’s session. If recharging the power bank overnight, a power adaptor and charging cable(s) will be needed.

Using the items just described, a researcher can collect several hundred target images in a single day—but not without first testing the whole kit & rehearsing the process. Test your equipment configuration thoroughly before bringing it to a repository. Take images of 10-20 targets as efficiently as possible within the same number of minutes as a goal, and cross check the results. If the images are not satisfactory within your time goal, troubleshoot/modify your setup and your process, and repeat.

## Three Basic “Forms” of Records and of Finding Aids

To best understand the numbered tips in the next section, the writer describes three basic forms of records found at archival repositories, and three basic forms of finding aids.

Three basic forms of records are found at each repository:

- Published works are generally found in open access shelving. Some published works may have restricted or monitored access, akin to textual records described shortly.
- Microfilm/fiche are generally found in open access spaces, usually with an archival staff member or volunteer on hand for assistance. Good quality readers, scanner-printers, and

<sup>5</sup> Said differently, the focal plane of the camera must be parallel to the target surface. If not, the resulting image will be broader on one edge, tapering to a narrower, opposite edge. So, if the table surface or wooden dais is not level, adjust the tripod device’s “level” to match it.

other digitizing equipment are a challenge, especially if the availability of fully functional devices does not keep up with the demand.

- “Textual Records” are almost always original records, but the writer has also seen staff substitute photocopied versions of originals, to preserve the handling of very fragile items. Some textual record collections will also be microfilmed, again to limit access to and handling of the originals.

Gaining access to textual records involves what the writer likes to call a Dance Cycle. The Dance begins with the researcher preparing “call” slips for each desired textual record, a demanding task that converts what one desires to see into the necessary “archival” language used by a staffer to accurately find and pull the record. Use the resident staff to help you. It may take several interactions. When the slips are ready, the Dance continues with the researcher handing off the call slips to the staff. If at a large, busy repository, the collection of call slips is often done per a printed schedule. The archival staff then dance away into the bowels of the repository to retrieve or “pull” the records. It is usually up to the researcher to check back and determine when the records have been pulled. A staffer may sometimes require a signature or identification before releasing the records. The researcher then must return all materials daily, again per a printed schedule. Be aware that the call slip serves as a link in the chain of custody, tying the researcher’s identity to the items pulled.

Previously mentioned, frequently used collections of textual records are often reproduced on film or fiche to limit handling of originals. Staff will not pull those originals without the researcher first using the reproductions. Staff are usually willing to pull the textual record if the film or digitized image is illegible, but usually you must show them. This can be time-consuming, usually involving a supervisor’s approval to pull the original.

Three forms of finding aids are important to understand:

- Published finding aids may exist that are unique to a Record Group, a Series, or Collection, or a Genre (e.g., Land Entry Files of the General Land Office). The repository itself may be the publisher of many finding aids.<sup>6</sup> Private entities and commercial publishers also prepare or reproduce finding aids. It is always helpful to identify these in advance for the desired research targets, because if a print or online version of the aid is not accessed in advance, then time should be allocated onsite to access or acquire it.
- Catalogs are always found onsite, in either card or digital form. Some repositories place digitized card catalogs online, which can be a valuable time saver.

<sup>6</sup> For example, NARA produced *General Information Leaflet 3: Select List of Publications* (Washington D.C.: NARA, 2010), 82 pages. NARA also supplies this material online at [www.archives.gov/publications](http://www.archives.gov/publications).



- Human finding aids abound in the form of staffers, some of whom may be volunteers. Some volunteers have become so valued to the public or to the staff themselves, being referred to as “citizen archivists.”

In large repositories such as the National Archives and its branches, the human and published finding aids are often located in their own dedicated spaces. These are must-visits for first timers.

Now that we have a basic idea of the *forms* of records and their findings aids, the following tips can be better understood.

## Tips 1-6: Research at an Archives.

1. Logistical concerns: do your “repository homework” before going or hiring anyone.
  - a. Is Online Catalog access possible? What can be researched online?
  - b. Specific consideration: compare the Online Catalog’s county record holdings with County Records Inventory (as reported by county courthouses), for each county of interest. This may allow you to conduct multi-county research first at the state archives, deferring onsite county courthouse research for those items not available at the archives.<sup>7</sup>
  - c. Specific consideration: compare the Online Catalog’s newspaper holdings with those of commercial & free search vendors.<sup>8</sup> Those not supplied by the latter can be targeted for research at the repository.
2. Visit #1: Ask for a local researcher list! Ask staff to point out any on the list who are working onsite. Try to meet these persons if possible and see if they are taking new clients, now or later. An onsite, in-person connection can be valuable later because such a person may be helpful to you for follow-up research or larger jobs. If you want to hire such a person, and, in your opinion, you do not hold sufficient references, credentials, and/or work samples to justify a large budget, consider a job with a very specific budget and narrow research objective. Most professionals will be anxious to earn your trust, and if you find someone who does so, you may save considerable time and expense not having to travel and stay overnight, plus a local professional may be much more familiar with archival holdings and staff members, allowing her or him to be efficient and effective.
3. Ask staff who the lead staff experts are for the record category or timeframe of interest. A key staffer can be a gold mine.

<sup>7</sup> A good example is the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which provides county-supplied courthouse document inventories via its online catalog. If such inventories are not available online, contact the archive of interest to determine if they have such inventories and how to access them.

<sup>8</sup> Some newspapers may have been microfilmed by the archives through their own 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors. The researcher may be able to purchase the desired films, but to narrow the expense, it is necessary to screen out those issues that have been digitized by commercial and free vendors. The Library of Congress’ *Chronicling America* series is an example of a free vendor.

4. Spend time learning what the staff use for finding aids & how to access them yourself, if permitted. Generally, the first day onsite is best planned for this.
5. Record “pulls” at busy facilities take time.
  - a. Prepare your “call slips” for textual records early in each day/week.
  - b. For each group of records being pulled, **check one call slip with staff** before submission **to avoid resubmission**.
  - c. Digitize or copy your call slips *before* submission.
  - d. Digitize (or document) archival box/folder label with its corresponding call slip.
  - e. Ask where bottlenecks are time-wise (e.g. printing/photocopying).
6. Staff sometimes includes “citizen archivists” or volunteers who specialize in particular records, usually well-respected by staff. Learn who they are and how to reach them.

## My “Day 1” at an Archival Repository

My very first day at a repository is not a “typical” day, described later. The more that I study the archives’ online policies, procedures, and daily operating mechanics, the better prepared I will be getting through Day 1.

My first day (occasionally just a half-day at some repositories) looks like this:

- Follow repository procedures for getting a researcher ID card and an account card that is used to pay for document reproductions. In some repositories a single card serves both purposes. If an account card is not used, does the facility accept credit cards, checks, or cash only? Be sure to have suitable cash on hand for an account card machine that accepts only \$1, \$5, \$10, and/or \$20-dollar bills.
- Obtain a local researcher list and ask staff to point out a few of those who may be onsite. For large facilities like NARA repeat this in each newly visited section.
- Tour the overall layout of the facility (or sections of it) with help from one or more staffers. No matter how much one studies the site layout and policies in advance, this “touring” request usually produces key points *from the staffer’s perspective*. If one asks the first staffer encountered how to find an unknown or missing 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother, the likely result is the staffer taking her/him to the first group of records (or their finding aids) and no further. Some items may influence a staffer to give a broader tour. First, mention this day as the first at this (section of the) facility. Second, if one studied online catalogs, guides, and facility procedures, saying so signals that one has prepared in advance for the visit. Third, if planning to be onsite for more than one day, say so. Fourth, mention the desire to be thorough, using whatever finding aids are available. In the latter instance the staffer will likely point out the finding aids rooms and staffers that can help you in various parts of the facility, as well as finding aids unique to particular sections of the facility.
- Understand and embrace the repository’s limitations with respect to digital reproduction.

- Understand first the general protocol to be followed for accessing and handling controlled materials (textual records, et. al.), then understand in detail the call slip, document pull, and document return policy (aka, my “Dance Cycle” with facility staffers).
- Locate, on you own if necessary, the finding aid rooms and their staffers, including citizen archivists.
- Get last minute updates or changes to local schedules, including unique hours for selected locations for the days you expect to use the repository. This also includes access restrictions and schedules with respect to any of the repository’s heavily used digital scanning and reproduction equipment suites.

## My Typical Day at an Archival Repository

Every trip to an archive demands homework and research planning. My plans are influenced by two overarching priorities.

1. Gather information from textual records and “archives-unique” microfilm that have not already been distributed and made widely available through commercial and free websites. Why? About 90-95% of these records have not been digitized, and therefore they cannot be accessed anywhere except the repository or one of its branches.
2. Gather information from multiple county courthouses in a single setting, rather than expending time, money, and energy at each courthouse of interest. To do this effectively, it is helpful to compare courthouse-supplied inventories with archival inventory in order to determine if a courthouse visit is still necessary, and, if so, for what record books.

Once on site, I prepare call slips for target Record Groups, specific collections, etc., knowing that the Dance Cycle with staff takes time to complete, and that anything pulled must be returned by the end of the day.

While waiting for textual records to be pulled, I access finding aids, card catalogs, published abstracts, & published transcriptions *that I had not already checked before arrival*. One parallel aspect to this is asking archivists (human finding aids) about record categories that are underutilized. The idea here is to begin framing the call slips for the next day or, if optimistic, the next set of schedule record pulls. I also use the wait time to conduct research using microfilm and vertical files.

Once record pulls occur, I suspend wait-time activity and immediately begin processing the pulled records, using a gathering mindset, as efficiently as possible. Here are a few items that play into this process:

- Image or digitally scan “en masse” to capture friends, associates, & neighbors:
  - Tax lists, petitions, original census lists at state & county level.
  - Regimental & company lists.
  - Land & probate records for ALL persons in prospective kinship groups.



- Exhaust target and parent counties' records, including surrounding counties of that time/place. Migration almost always influences research results, so:
  - Use period maps & archivists' experience to project migration patterns that are not already published.
  - Exhaust prospective county records along migration routes, especially along watersheds, trails, & "roads."

## My Typical Overnight at an Archival Repository

I may spend one to two weeks at a repository unless I am conducting a very narrow research objective; therefore, I am almost always working overnight at the repository location. Each day I usually acquire from 200 to 800 digital images, so these must be dealt with immediately.

- Copy images to laptop hard drive AND to off-site storage (e.g., [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)). Depending upon your upload speeds, this may have to continue while sleeping. To ensure that this will succeed, before departure, upload 200 or so images to off-site storage as homework. If you envision your hotel/motel/family or friend's house having poor upload rates, consider restricting your homework to cellular connections only.
- Double-check the copy process; then delete images on cameras & flash drives ONLY if space is needed on the device for the next day's research.
- Recharge batteries & any power banks. Some power banks are powerful enough for multi-day use before recharge; however, I recommend recharging every night.
- Analyze (high level) the day's results & revise the research plan for the next day.

## Summary

Successful genealogical research at NARA or state archives requires advanced planning, not just for the research itself, but also the practical, logistical preparations for onsite research. Day 1 at any repository is almost always consumed with unique demands. Thereafter, effective use of digital imaging devices can dramatically improve the amount and/or quality of research material obtained for broad research objectives, using a gathering mindset.

## Cemetery Iconography – Part Two

*Contributed by Sarah (Sally) Hamer*

In this article, I will share some of the ways we honor family members who served as military, police, fire fighters, and in other capacities as dignitaries.



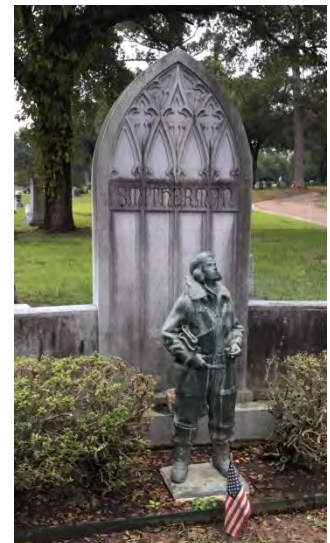
One of my favorites is a stone in Oakland Cemetery in downtown Shreveport, Louisiana. Lieutenant Claiborne Lee Foster, of the Bossier Parish Foster family, was given an amazing tombstone, filled with symbols. First, the column is broken off at the top, meaning that he died before he had completed his life; he was 25. The drape on top shows the grief his family felt. His sheathed sword and honors, the sash with tassels, show that he was a soldier who served with honor.

Claiborne Lee Foster was buried in a family cemetery, where any type of stone his family could afford was allowed. To bury a soldier, whether he or she died in the line of duty or as a veteran, some cemeteries only allow certain sizes and shapes of stones with only certain things carved on them. For instance, the person who lies under this stone received a medal of honor and the stone reflects that.



The stone on the left is beautifully done; obviously, the man's children cared about him very much. He lived much past the time he would have served in the military (probably WWII), but it obviously was very important to him.

The one on the right is in Forest Park Cemetery here in Shreveport. Second Lieutenant Robert Smitherman died in Europe in 1945, flying his beloved planes. If you look very closely, you can see the cigarette in his left hand.





Most military tombstones will identify the rank of the soldier buried beneath, usually with the war theatre and the unit. Often the area in a cemetery where military are buried will have a large cenotaph, a stone with no body beneath. Greenwood Cemetery in Shreveport has a series of cenotaphs for various designations. One of the largest is for the Confederate Soldier section of the cemetery.

Many police and fire personnel will have symbols of their service on their stones. Here are two in Greenwood Cemetery in Shreveport, the one on the left with a carving of his badge and the one below with a fire axe, helmet, and ladder. (Please excuse the thumb on the picture!)



There is also a cenotaph for fire fighters and police who died in the service of the City of Shreveport.



One more interesting use of iconography on headstones is for occupations or work-related cenotaphs.





Here are a couple from Greenwood Cemetery in Shreveport. Each is situated in front of a group of members of a union or particular group of people. The stones for the individuals themselves may also have icons on them.



Last, but not least, I've included a photo of one of the most ancient sets of stones used for some sort of burial practices. You'll see the back of the friend who traveled with me to Stonehenge, as we watched the sun go down. Amazing place!



Photo credits: All are taken by the author except for the first three (Claiborne Foster – Oakland Cemetery website, Bennett and Ostrander – Wikipedia), and the picture of the Shreveport Fire and Police Memorial – from their website.

## “Pirates” and Violent Times

*Contributed by Ken Shivley*

While researching my wife’s ancestry, I found this story in a compilation of family history put together by her cousin, Richard Keen.

Carol’s great-great-great grandfather, Joseph St. Ange Bossier, was born in 1797, in Baltimore, Maryland. His father was Jean Bossiere, who was born in France in 1775, and his mother, Marie Galluchat, was born in 1773, in Artibonite, Haiti. As the story goes, Marie’s family was of French origin and living in Haiti when it was a French colony, but they fled to the U.S. when life there became dangerous.

At a young age, Joseph became a sailor, serving in the War of 1812 on a schooner, **The Ardent**. Known as a “boisterous fellow,” Joseph eventually wound up in New Orleans where, in his early 20s, he got involved in a plot to rescue Napoleon from exile on the Island of St. Helena. His ship was a clipper named **The Seraphine**, and Joseph recruited former pirates and other adventurers. Dominique You, one of former pirate Jean Lafitte’s main men, was to be second-in-command. But when news came that Napoleon had died, Joseph was very upset, not so much of the death, but of missing out on an adventure.

Joseph kept sailing **The Seraphine** on summer cruises along the Mississippi Sound. He would often board other ships and learn the news and chat with passengers. Sometimes his men would pretend to be pirates, even running up the Jolly Roger in order to scare people on other ships. One day Bossier and some of his men boarded a large ship, **The Anne Maria**, which was headed for the Mississippi. Once on deck, he and his men were overpowered and beaten up badly, and **The Seraphine** and crew sailed away. Bossier tried to explain to Capt. Thompson who he was, but they believed he was a pirate and took him to the authorities in New Orleans.

There Bossier challenged Thompson to a duel, but the captain refused. Thompson tried to apologize, claiming anybody would have thought Bossier was a pirate. Bossier sued the owners of the **Anne Maria** for injuries to his pride and collected a large sum. Capt. Thompson left New Orleans for good.

In 1859, Joseph Bossier took offense at an article printed in a newspaper, **The New Orleans Courier**. He packed his pistol and went to the newspaper office on Poydras Street to “clean the --- place out.” But one of the editors pulled his gun first and wounded Joseph, who died in his bed a few days later. He was in his early 60s.

Joseph and his wife Francis had been operating a sawmill in Abita Springs, Louisiana, for years and had plans at his death to build a hotel there. After Joseph died, Francis borrowed money to build the hotel, The Long Branch, and operated it for decades.

One thing of interest to me was the fact that the next year in 1860, my own great-great-grandfather, David Malone, was shot and mortally wounded at his home in Bienville Parish, Louisiana, by a traveling photographer on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. I’ve read accounts from the Bienville **Jeffersonian** where the sheriff offered a \$250.00 reward for the capture of the “ambrotype” artist listed as L W. McCullum. Described as 6 feet, 160 pounds, sandy hair, mustache and goatee, the murderer was believed to have quickly left the area. There all information ends. The violent acts which led to the deaths of these older men prove what a tumultuous time this was.

## Hey, I Know These People

*Contributed by Leonard Gresens*

I love looking at old pictures. I don't need to know who is in the picture or the subject matter; I just like to look at old pictures. My favorites are those of old Shreveport.

Another thing I like to do is go to estate sales, antique shops, and flea markets. The junkier the better. Seeing old stuff brings back memories and helps me to relive my good old days.

A few years back, I was visiting the Timeline Antiques and Collectible Mall on Line Avenue. I frequent these places often looking to see what's new. On this particular day, there was a section with a lot of old photographs. Like setting a trap, I went for the bait and was caught. I rummaged through those pictures with no clue as to whom some of these people were until... "Hey, I KNOW these people." As a matter of fact, I've SEEN this picture. There in my hand was a picture of my great-aunt Ida "Big Mama" Fulco FERTITTA and her husband, my great-uncle "Papa Joe" FERTITTA and their three sons, Anthony, Gerard, and my uncle Sam FERTITTA. How did this picture get here? Who sells out their family pictures? Am I on candid camera? All these times I have looked through countless photos, I had never run across someone that I knew.

Well, now I am really trapped. What else hides in here? Who else will I find? I must have spent over an hour looking through every one of those photographs. But this was the only one I could identify with. There were a lot of neat photos, but only this one was going home with me.

I walked up to the counter to check out and the lady asked, "You spent all that time over there and this is all you're buying?" Was I that obvious? I told her, "This is the only one where I knew someone!"

Needless to say, I never pass a display of pictures any longer.



Left to right: "Papa Joe", Gerard, "Big Mama", Sam, and Anthony FERTITTA. Picture taken 21 April 1940, Sam & Florence FERTITTA's wedding day.



## Tracing Our Family Tree and Its Intertwining Roots

*by Venita English Fountain and Mary English Wynn*

When we set out to trace our family roots in this country and beyond, one of our original goals was to find an ancestor arriving at Ellis Island. We could picture our traveling there and taking a tour to feel the vibes and retrace the steps to honor and remember our ancestor. Well, we have not found a single ancestor that came through Ellis Island, which opened in 1892, (and before that, Castle Garden was being used as early as 1820.) From our research, we found out that we were being represented in America long before these dates.

For this article, we will start with our eight great-grandparents. Our maiden name is English, so we will start with our father's side since his grandmother was a Crowley. Our father's mother was a Barron, and her grandmother was a Raborn. Our mother's maiden name was Gathright, and her grandmother was a Joiner. Our mother's mother was a McClung, and her grandfather was a McAdams. If possible, we want to show the date of immigration to here (or at least the earliest document that we have placing them in this country) and the earliest document placing them in their country of origin.

### **Family surnames we are researching:**

ENGLISH - 1582 in England and 1664 in Ireland, but by 1685, they were in New Kent Co., VA.

CROWLEY -1702 in Warwickshire, England, and by 1761, they were in Halifax Co.,VA.

BARRON - 1740 in Waterford, Ireland, and by 1766, they were in Warren Co., GA.

RABORN - 1793 in Edgefield, SC, with no country of origin yet.

GATHRIGHT - 1576 in Williamsburg, England, as GARTHWAITE, and by late 1600s, in Henrico, Co., VA.

JOINER – 1808 in GA, with no known country of origin.

MCCLUNG - 1762 in Lancaster, Co., PA, with country of origin believed to be Ireland or Scotland.

MCADAMS - 1728 in Belfast, Ireland, but by 1756, in Glasgow, Scotland, and by 1782 Newberry, SC.

### **The Intertwining Branches of the Gathright and the McClung families:**

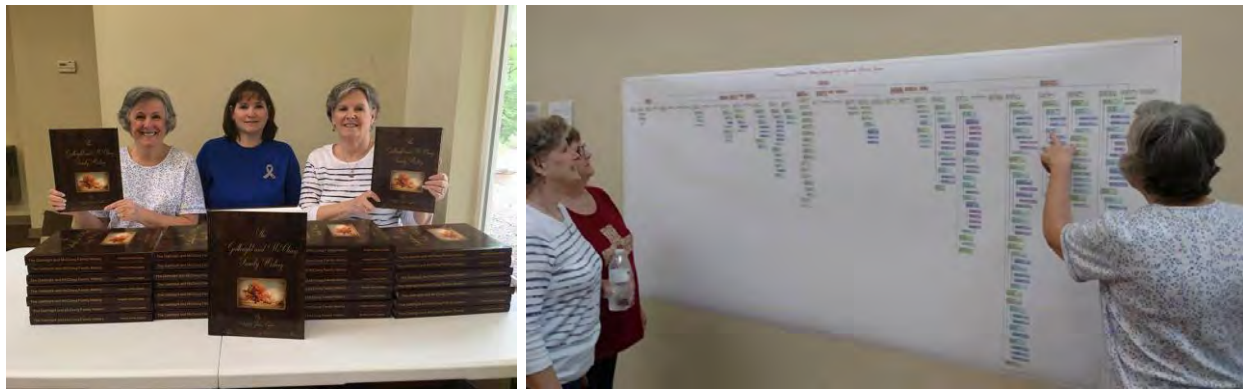
The Gathright and McClung families have deep roots in Claiborne Parish going back to the late 1800s, and they became intertwined forever when four children of Robert Milton Gathright, a Primitive Baptist preacher, married into the McClung family.

Shown below are the four Gathright siblings and their McClung spouses with their marriage records. The marriages span from 1886 to 1913. The last two are Gathright siblings that married McClung siblings. The one on the right end is our grandparents, Marshall Gathright and Otha McClung.



The descendants of these four unions celebrate the lives of their ancestors with the Gathright-McClung reunion held each year since the 1980s at Lake Claiborne.

In 2017, my daughter, Angi Caples published the **Gathright-McClung Family History** book. Most of the genealogy information came from our Family-Tree-Maker genealogy programs. Venita and I gathered pictures and family stories that are included in the book. Angi had charts made of the descendants of our great-grandfather, Robert Milton Gathright, and a chart made of the descendants of our great-grandfather, William Elias McClung. The charts are color coded, very large, and quite impressive to see.



Venita Fountain, Angi Caples & Mary Wynn

Admiring one of the charts!

We still have much work to do on tracing the unknowns and fleshing out the knowns. But isn't that the best thing about genealogy? It is never finished, and there is always more to learn. We love reading about the places our ancestors have lived and what was happening in the time period they were living there. Historical fiction is a window to how they lived and why they would take such a journey to a new world!

## Al & Sarah's South Louisiana Roots

*Contributed by Albert and Sarah Dennis*

Albert R. Dennis III (b. 1951) and Sarah R. Dangerfield (b.1955) are both natives of Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. Al is the oldest of his mom's (Lillie McCray b. 1924) six and dad's (Albert R. Dennis, Jr., b. 1926) four children (parents divorced and remarried). He was schooled in the local schools and was a member and senior class president of the last graduating class of Greenville Park High School (1969) before desegregation of the Tangipahoa Parish School System. **NOTE: The 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion of the Greenville Park High Class of 1969 will be held May 24-26, 2019, in Hammond.** In high school, Al participated in football, basketball, baseball, the band, and the glee club. He attended Grambling College on a football scholarship, graduated with academic honors in December, 1972, and went on to play in the NFL with San Diego and Cleveland 1973-77. After the NFL, he returned to his alma mater (1978-2004) and served in various administrative positions, culminating as Athletics Director. He is now an avid genealogist, researching his extended family, while consulting in the financial services field. Before back problems forced him to stop, he was an adult leader in boy scouting from 1986-2015.

Sarah was the last of eight children, all delivered by a mid-wife to Edward Dangerfield, Sr. (b. 1914) and Bernice Adams (b. 1915). There were six boys and two girls. Her formative school years were also in the Hammond School System. She was a member of the first integrated eighth grade class in Hammond. The next year, upon entering high school, she was selected as a member of the bi-racial committee, charged with developing activities to ease and improve race relations. After graduating from Hammond High (May 1974), Sarah attended Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) majoring in Business, while becoming a charter line member of the first black sorority in the country and the first to come to SLU. That sorority is Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. After graduation she was employed at Crown Zellerbach Corporation as an accountant's assistant and later as a human resource specialist, before meeting the love of her life, Albert Dennis. Dr. Dennis is currently an assistant professor in the Master of Public Administration program at Grambling State University.

Sarah and Al became romantically linked in the summer of 1976 as a result of a "blind date." Al was returning from San Diego, California, to Hammond, in preparation for joining the Cleveland Browns in July, 1976. They dated for four years, and on June 14, 1980, in Hammond, they were married. This year they will celebrate their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They are the proud parents of three children and four grands.



Their family research has been very enlightening and challenging. During its course, they have made several “First” discoveries. They are as follow:

**Education:** College Graduates

- Lillie McCray (Al’s mom) 1948 Grambling College
- Albert Dennis, Jr. 1950 Grambling College
- Celia Banks, (Sarah’s aunt) 1951? Xavier University
- In 1968, Albert Dennis, Jr. became the first African American to receive a Master’s Degree from Northwestern State College (Natchitoches)
- In 2006, Sarah D. Dennis became the first in her family to receive a PhD. She graduated from Jackson State University in the inaugural class for a PhD in Urban Higher Education, an interdisciplinary program concentrating in the areas Business, Public Policy, and Urban Planning.

**Peace Officers:**

- Charlie Muse (Al’s stepdad) was one of the first three African Americans to be hired as a police officer in Hammond in 1963.
- Rogers Dangerfield (Sarah’s brother) was the first African American to be hired as a sheriff’s deputy in Tangipahoa Parish in 1966. Initially, they were hired only to police the African American populace.

**Social Significance:**

- Sarah Dangerfield was a member of the first group to integrate the Hammond High Torettes (dancing group) and the Homecoming Courts in 1973-74.
- Albert Dennis III was the first African American football recruit/signee Tulane University in May, 1969.
- Albert Jr. and Albert III are the only father and son duo to be inductees of Grambling University Alumni and the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame. Both were All American tackles under legendary Coach Eddie Robinson.

Al and Sarah are hopeful and prayerful that their research will continue to shed new light on their ancestor’s stories and their roots.

## Cowpens and Brunswick Town on Cape Fear

*Contributed by Sarah (Sally) Hamer*

Genealogy on the ground is amazing and fun, especially when you have a “road map” to follow. In the late 1890s, one of my great- great-grandfathers, Andrew Jackson McIntosh, (born 1835, died 1919), wrote down the history of his grandfather, John Og McIntosh (1753-1829). This precious twenty-two page document has been handed down in my family ever since.

It tells the story of John Og McIntosh, who was born in Inverness Shire, Scotland, and came to this country via the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlander Regiment in 1776, with General Cornwallis to fight against the unruly colonialists.

I’ve just gotten back from a wonderful trip, spending some time with friends in Atlanta, Georgia, and Greenville, South Carolina, before heading to the beautiful beaches of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, to see my mom and my sister, Cathy, for several days.

One of my goals on this trip was to look at some Revolutionary War sites specific to our family, especially Cowpens and Cape Fear.

Cape Fear is where a shipload of British troops, including JOM, first stepped onto what is now United States soil.

There is an actual place called Cape Fear. It’s a tiny spit of land at the south end of Wilmington, NC. But that’s probably not where a ship landed. I checked the actual wording of the JOM account and found that it says, “...they entered Cape Fear River,” which sounded more like a port than just a piece of the beach. Here’s the entire section:

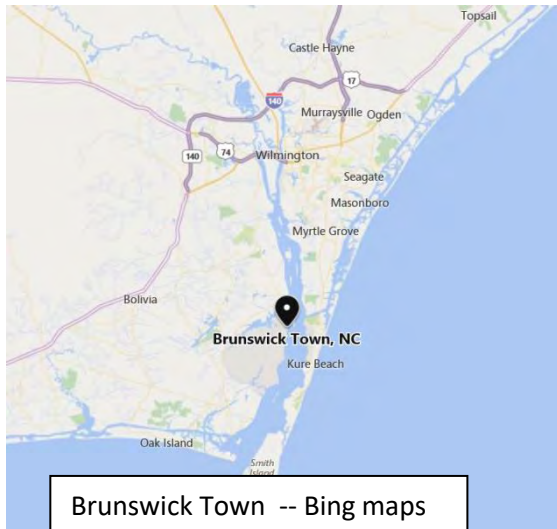
“The American Revolutionary War having broken out the year before, Surgeon John Og [JOM’s uncle] was ordered to the army of Lord Cornwallis to America. The fleet of transports made ready for this voyage was riding at anchor in Cork Harbor, Ireland, and this was the place of rendezvous for all soldiers and sailors belonging to that memorable expedition. Thinking that war’s alarms and the wilds of America would be good training for his student, Surgeon John Og decided to have him accompany him to the New World. All being in readiness, they bid adieu to

relatives, friends, hills and valley of bonnie Scotland, and joined the fleet in Cork Harbor.

History tells us, that on or about the 11th day of February 1776, anchors were weighed, the fleet sailed out of the harbor and put to sea. It proved to be a perilous voyage. Within a few days after their departure the fleet was overtaken by a violent storm, and the vessels were scattered in all directions. All on board despaired of ever reaching their destination, but after being tempest-tossed and battered by gales and contrary winds, they entered Cape Fear River, in North Carolina, on the 3rd day of May of the same year, after having braved storms for over eighty days.

Here the troops were landed, in Brunswick County, and the sight of landing witnessed the first exploits of Cornwallis in America.”

With this information in hand, we took a trip to Wilmington, North Carolina, on a windy, cool January day. There we found Brunswick Town on the western side of Cape Fear River, which runs north and south from the



Brunswick Town -- Bing maps

Atlantic to Wilmington. Brunswick Town was a prominent and active British shipping port, established in 1726. In fact, it was the first successful European settlement in the Cape Fear area, being the home of two British colonial governors, including William Tryon, and it was the capital city of the province for several years. The trading business was brisk here, with several of the landowners selling products to the British Navy from fur traders and colonial plantations, which produced tar,

pitch, and turpentine. During the 1740s, it was the busiest port district in the Carolinas. (Outlander fans, Jamie and Claire went to New Bern and met both Governor Tryon and George Washington at Tryon Palace. It only messes with the truth a little, since Washington didn't go to New Bern until after the war was over. But he did dance in the ballroom of the house.)

Brunswick Town became a hotbed of sedition when the British passed the Stamp Act in 1765. Even though Governor Tryon attempted to calm everyone down, townspeople surrounded his “Castle” and put him under



house arrest, one of the first instances of armed colonial resistance to British rule.

According to the Wikipedia article on Brunswick Town, most loyal Brits left with Tryon and moved the colonial capital to New Bern, NC, leaving only a very few rebels, and in the spring of 1776, the British ship *Cruizer*, under orders by General Cornwallis, burned the town to the ground.

This brings us back to my ancestor, John Og McIntosh. I haven't been able to find out if he was on the *Cruizer*, for some reason, there's no sign stating "John Og McIntosh was here" on the grounds of the ruins. But I think there's a good chance that since I know he was there at around the right time, there's at least a possibility.



Ruins of St. Philip's Church -- Wikipedia

What was left of Brunswick Town was uninhabited until the Civil War, when earthworks were built to protect it from invasion by the Yankees. They called it Fort Anderson. In the 1950s, there were several archaeology digs in the area; unearthed were the remains of a church and about 50 houses from the pre-Revolutionary War community.

Here are some pictures of the area, although I didn't take a lot of the Brunswick ruins, since it was, well, in ruins. Since the houses had been burned to the ground, just a jumble of rocky foundations was left. The area, including the visitor center, was badly damaged by Hurricane Florence, so there wasn't much to see.



Ruins of Brunswick Town -- Wikipedia

My next stop was another site known to all of the McIntosh relatives, since the Battle of Cowpens was where John Og McIntosh was captured by the American general, Daniel Morgan. I couldn't wait to go see it.

The visitors' center and main entrance were closed because of the government shutdown, but there was a walking trail all the way through the battlefield that was open. It was stark – brown, leafless trees, cold wind, clouds scuttling across the sky – but since the actual battle happened on January 17, 1781, JOM probably saw it much the same way.



Cowpens Battlefield -- Wikipedia

The Green River Road, which now is mostly Highway 29 between Greenville and Charlotte, still exists close to what it was in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century for a two-mile stretch, from one end of the National Park to the other. The British Army would have marched up that road to deploy their forces on the south side of it.

JOM was in the cavalry of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders Regiment, under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. (For the *Outlander* fans amongst us, Jamie's half-uncle, Simon Fraser of Lovat, was a real person, distantly related to us, who mustered the 71<sup>st</sup>. By this and other actions, he was eventually given back some of the lands confiscated by the Crown after the 1746 Scottish rebellion.)

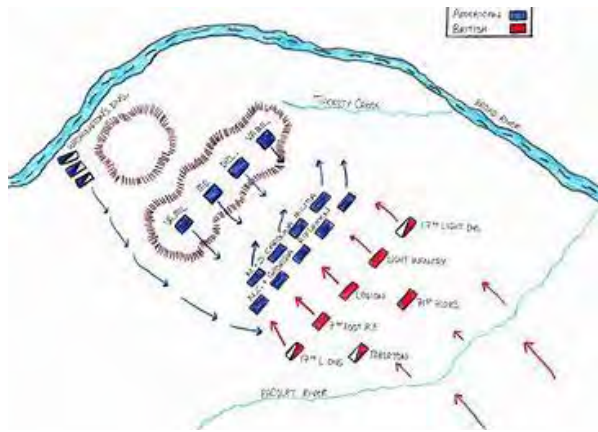


Cowpens Battlefield -- Wikipedia



The British soldiers were cold, hungry, and tired. They had had only about four hours of sleep in forty-eight, but Tarleton was well known for his impetuous behavior, which often was a good thing. This time, it wasn't.

There were approximately two thousand American troops waiting for the smaller force of one thousand Brits at Cowpens. (There literally were pens for cows in that area – a pasturing land for cattle.)



Cowpens Battlefield -- Wikipedia

Even though Tarleton had fewer men, his troops were seasoned and experienced. Morgan, on the other hand, had more newbies, many of whom had run at the first gunshot in a prior battle. However, Morgan had some strategy up his sleeve. He wedged his forces between two rivers, which didn't allow them to run, and he then set up three lines. First, he set up

his sharp shooters who were to fire two volleys, then retreat to reform behind the third line. His second line was the weaker militia, to encourage an over-confident Tarleton to focus his men there. The third line was the strongest and would distract the Brits by pretending to retreat while the other two lines reformed and beat them up from both sides. The 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders were on the right flank of Morgan's army,

Morgan's brilliant strategy worked and the Brits lost, with only approximately two hundred of the men able to retreat, including Tarleton, and the rest were either killed or taken prisoner.

According to the family history:

"Owing to the peculiar arrangement of the British cavalry trappings, consisting, among other things, of two broad belts made fast to the saddle and which, the rider, after mounting securely buckled around his thighs, he [JOM] was left inextricably attached to the dead horse. After the British gave way and fled, Gen. Morgan rode over the field of slaughter where he found Mr. McIntosh in his sad predicament. He immediately dismounted, cut him loose and brought him into camp, claiming him as his individual prisoner."



He continues:

“Thus, after three years and more of service with Col. Tarleton, he finds himself a prisoner in the American camp. Not long after this event, Gen Morgan, in consequence of ill health and much needed rest, returned to his home near Winchester, Va., taking his Scotch prisoner with him. Here, with the family of Gen. Morgan, Mr. McIntosh remained until his marriage: the exact date of which event, is lost, but it was probably in the month of June 1782.”

At some point after this, with a new baby in tow, JOM and his wife, Sarah Bennett, left for Kentucky and a new world.”

This was an amazing trip and took two items off my bucket list; although, I would love to go back when it isn't so cold, and I could spend more time. My next task is to find a source, probably in Britain, for which ship JOM was actually on. When I spoke to the tourist bureau people in Wilmington about the British side of the battle, I was told that they “weren't interested in them.” I guess I can understand why, especially since John Og McIntosh didn't like them much either.

(Author's Disclaimer: Please excuse all the stock photos. I've tried to download the pictures I took and wasn't able to get my phone to work. None of the photos I used belong to me. Some of the information I've used comes from Wikipedia articles about the two locations I've mentioned.)



# Genealogical Seminar

Presented by  
Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association



## Saturday August 10, 2019

Speaker  
**John Sellers**

John A. Sellers is a fifth generation native to Hopkins County, Texas and is a former Mayor of Sulphur Springs. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has a teaching certificate in history from Texas A & M, Commerce. He has been doing genealogical research since 1985. He has served over fifteen years on the executive board of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society including serving as vice president and is currently serving as president. He has lectured at national genealogical conferences as well as over 60 state and local seminars and at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University.

### Seminar Location

**Broadmoor United Methodist Church – Pearce Activity Hall**  
**3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport, La** (Parking lot is on east side on Albany Ave)

### Schedule and Topics

- 8:00am Doors Open - Registration
- 9:00am Opening Remarks / Introduction
- 9:15am What's Hidden in Courthouse Records
- 10:45am What's Hidden in Courthouse Records - Continued
- 11:45am Lunch
- 1:00pm History's Role in Your Genealogical Pursuits
- 2:20pm Researching Newspapers in Cyber Space

Hearthstone Legacy Publications will be the featured vendor with a wide selection of history, genealogy and map materials.

**Early Registration Recommended • Door prizes & more**

**Cost of Seminar - - - \$40.00 - - - Includes lunch if registration received by August 6, 2019**

PayPal accepted: [www.altgenealogy.com](http://www.altgenealogy.com)

Seating limit: 75 For information send email to [jjohnson747@suddenlink.net](mailto:jjohnson747@suddenlink.net)

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To Register: Make your check payable to Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. Mail with this form to:  
**Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Assn Seminar P.O. Box 4463, Shreveport, La 71134-0463**

Please PRINT the names of registrants (including surnames being researched) separately for each person attending.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

List 4 surnames you are researching (*each*). If received prior to **Aug 6, 2019**, your surnames will be included in the seminar handout.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_