

BRICKWALL GAZETTE

Genealogy Society Of Craighead County, Arkansas

This month's meeting is
March 16, 2025

Editor: Nancy Matthews

VOLUME NUMBER TWENTY-NINE, ISSUE NUMBER THREE **MARCH 2025**

MEETING HAPPENINGS:

We held our February Meeting on February 16, 2025 at The First Community Bank Meeting Room. Our program was on Color Coding Your Tree on Ancestry.com presented by Nancy Matthews.

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Board Meeting for March was held on March 8, 2025 in the Civic League Room of the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.

1. Upcoming Programs
2. 2025 Lock-In
3. The next scheduled board meeting will be April 12, 2025.

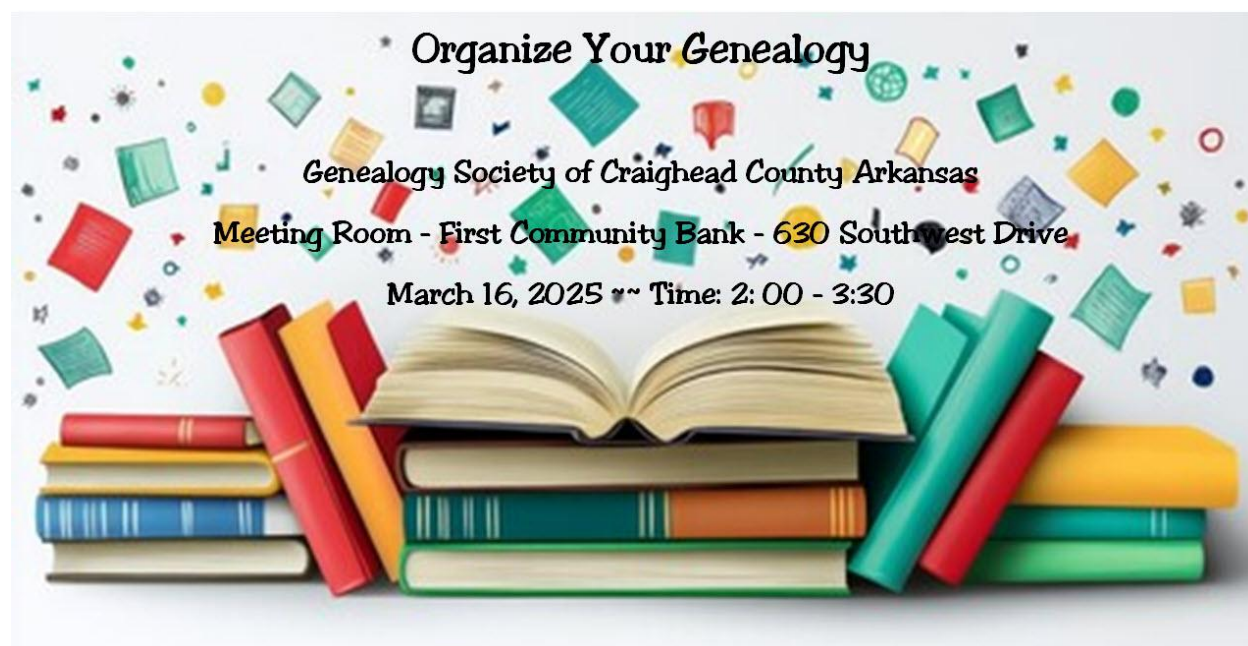
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MARCH MEETING: Our March 2025 will be held on March 16, 2025 in the Meeting Room at the First Community Bank Meeting Room, 630 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR.

Our program will Organize Your Genealogy.

Come join us for a great day.

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# Research Help

**Saturday, March 22, 2025**  
**Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library**  
**Noon – 4:00**

Come help visitors to our library or help each other in their quest to find ancestors.

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GENEALOGY NIGHT LOCK-IN

Mark your Calendars

More information will be posted as soon as it is available.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

6:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library

www.gscca.net/lock-in.htm

Volunteers are needed to greet researchers, to help with check-in and to answer questions.

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### **GSCCA Board**

President – Irene Goble

Vice President – Gail Lies

Treasurer – Candy Ellis

Membership Director -- Debbie Powers

Publications/Newsletters – Nancy Matthews

Recording Secretary – Kathy Simpson

Corresponding Secretary – Susie Grommet

Historian – Jan Beasley

Publicity – Elizabeth Stokes

Members-At-Large: Laura Rooks

Honorary: Lynn Dowdy & Deanna Ketcher

# BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Do you need help getting started? Do you know someone who does? Do you just need an idea on where to look next? Are you interested in a “refresher”? Take a day and join us.

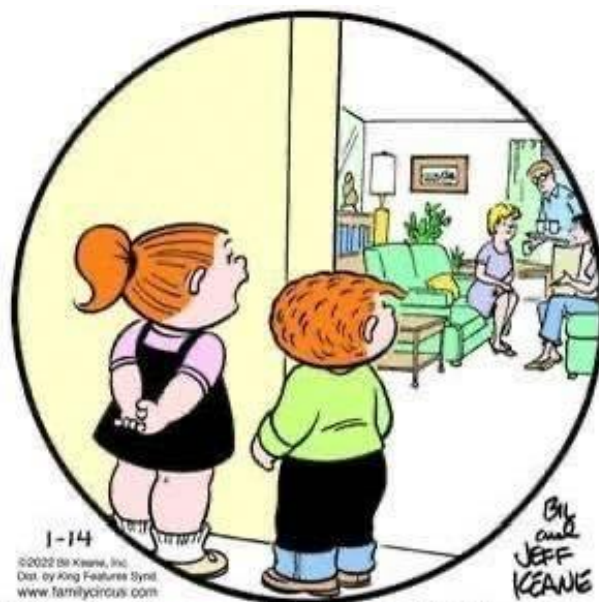
Saturday, March 29, 2025 Part I 10:00—12:00

LUNCH 12:00—2:00

Saturday, March 29, 2025 Part II 2:00—4:00

2-part class—Free  
Optional Book \$10.00

Contact: Nancy Matthews  
to reserve a seat or a book  
[nmatthews@suddenlink.net](mailto:nmatthews@suddenlink.net)  
[gscca@suddenlink.net](mailto:gscca@suddenlink.net)  
870-219-0535



“Yeah, she used to be Daddy’s sister,  
but now she’s our aunt.”

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Family Tree Fails: 11 Embarrassing Mistakes Every Genealogist Has Made (Pt.2)

[Marc McDermott](#) First Published: September 11, 2024 | Updated: January 18, 2025

6. The Census Circus

Census records. Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em.

Enumerators made mistakes. Transcribers made mistakes. And let's be honest, sometimes our ancestors flat-out lied. Shocking, I know.

Navigate the census circus:

1. Cross-reference with other sources.
2. Be aware of common transcription errors.
3. Look at original images, not just transcriptions.
4. Consider reasons for misinformation (age vanity, anyone?).
5. Use census records as clues, not gospel truth.

Sorry, but Great-Grandpa probably wasn't actually 150 years old in 1880. Unless he was. In which case, what's his secret?

7. The Photographic Faux Pas

"And this is a picture of Great-Aunt Mildred in 1920!"

Is it though? Is it really?

Mislabeling photos is the genealogist's equivalent of putting diesel in a petrol car. It'll mess things up for a long time to come.

Picture perfect tips:

1. Learn to date photos by clothing, hairstyles, and photographic techniques.
2. Label everything. But not with a Sharpie on the back of the photo, for crying out loud.
3. Scan and digitally label photos.
4. Cross-reference with other family photos and documents.
5. Be cautious with inherited photo identifications. Great-Grandma might have been mistaken too.

Future generations will thank you. Or at least not curse your name.

8. The Source Citation Slip-up

Source citations are like flossing. Everyone knows they should do it, but many skip it because it's a pain.

Don't be that person. Cite your sources. All of them. Even the ones you think you'll remember. Spoiler alert: you won't.

Citation salvation:

1. Cite as you go. Don't wait until later. Later never comes.
2. Use a consistent citation format.
3. Include enough information to relocate the source.
4. Cite even when you're "just browsing".
5. Use genealogy software to help manage citations.

Future you (and future generations) will thank you when they're not playing genealogical detective.

9. The Technology Tumble

The internet is amazing. It's also a trap.

Not everything is online. Shocking, I know. But it's true. There's a whole world of records out there in dusty archives and county courthouses.

Avoid the tech tumble:

1. Balance online and offline research.
2. Don't trust every hint from genealogy websites.
3. Learn to use advanced search techniques.
4. Understand the limitations of OCR and indexing.
5. Back up your data. Seriously. Do it now.

Remember, just because it's on the internet doesn't mean it's true. I'm looking at you, person who claims to be descended from Charlemagne, Elvis, AND aliens.

10. The Ancestor Amnesia

You're so focused on your direct lineage that you forget about all those pesky siblings, cousins, and in-laws. Big mistake. Huge.

Collateral relatives can be your best friends in genealogy. They might hold the key to breaking down those brick walls.

Cure ancestor amnesia:

1. Research entire family units, not just direct ancestors.
2. Follow siblings through their lives. They might lead you to parents' death records or other valuable info.
3. Pay attention to witnesses on documents. They're often relatives.
4. Research neighbors. People often moved in family groups.
5. Don't ignore those "irrelevant" cousins. They might have the family Bible you've been searching for.

Remember: your ancestors didn't live in a vacuum. Neither should your research.

11. The Heirloom Hullabaloo

Family heirlooms and stories are genealogical gold. They're also often fool's gold.

That family crest? Probably bought at a gift shop. The story about being descended from royalty? Take it with a grain of salt. Or maybe the whole salt shaker.

Handle heirlooms with care:

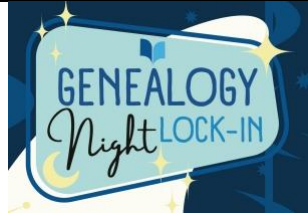
1. Treat family stories as clues, not facts.
2. Research the provenance of heirlooms.
3. Be open to debunking family myths.
4. Use DNA testing to verify (or disprove) family legends.
5. Remember that the truth can be just as interesting as the myth.

Just because Great-Grandpa said it doesn't make it true. Sorry, Great-Grandpa.

We All Make Mistakes

We all make mistakes. It's part of the genealogy game. The key is to learn from them, laugh about them, and keep digging.

So the next time you realize you've accidentally made your great-grandmother her own aunt, take a deep breath. Pour yourself a drink. And remember, even the pros screw up sometimes.



17th Summer Lock-In
19 July 2025

Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library

315 W. Oak Ave, Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-935-5133
<http://libraryinjonesboro.org>



HAIR STYLIST COLOR SPECIALIST



630 Southwest Drive
Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-932-5600



906 Southwest Dr. St. A-1
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

THE BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

www.butlercenter.org/

Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library

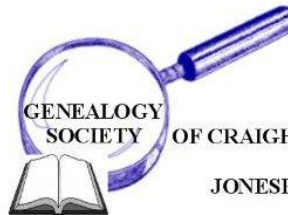
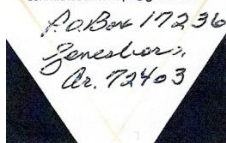
Digital Photos Collection

<http://libraryinjonesboro.contentdm.oclc.org/>



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