

BRICKWALL GAZETTE

Editor: Nancy Matthews

Genealogy Society Of Craighead County, Arkansas

This month's meeting is
Canceled

VOLUME NUMBER TWENTY-SIX, ISSUE NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 2022

MEETING HAPPENINGS:

Once again, we were unable to have a general meeting. The new Children's Section at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library is now complete. The Children's Materials that have been in the Round Room are now in the Children's Section. We hope to be able to have a meeting in March in the Round Room.

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Board Meeting for February was held on February 12, 2022 in the Shakespear Room at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.

1. By-Laws Update
2. Year-End Reports
3. The next scheduled board meeting will be March 12, 2022.

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BY-LAWS: In order to make everything meet the requirements for our "Non-Profit" status, it is necessary to make some small changes in our By-Laws. A copy of the By-Laws with the proposed changes is attached with the newsletter. In addition, the By-Laws are posted on our Webpage at www.gscca.net/by-laws. The deletions have a ~~strike through~~, and the additions are in red. Please read them and send an email to gscca@suddenlink.net or

nmatthews@suddenlink.net with your vote for or against the changes. If there are additions or corrections, please let us know. Votes will be counted on February 26, 2022.

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### NEW LINE-UP OF OFFICERS:

President: Irene Goble  
Vice-President: Deanna Ketcher  
Recording Secretary: Joyce Seibert  
Corresponding Secretary: Susie Grommet  
Treasurer: Gail Lies  
Historian: Jan Beasley  
Membership Director: Debbie Powers  
Publicity: Elizabeth Stokes  
Publications: Nancy Matthews

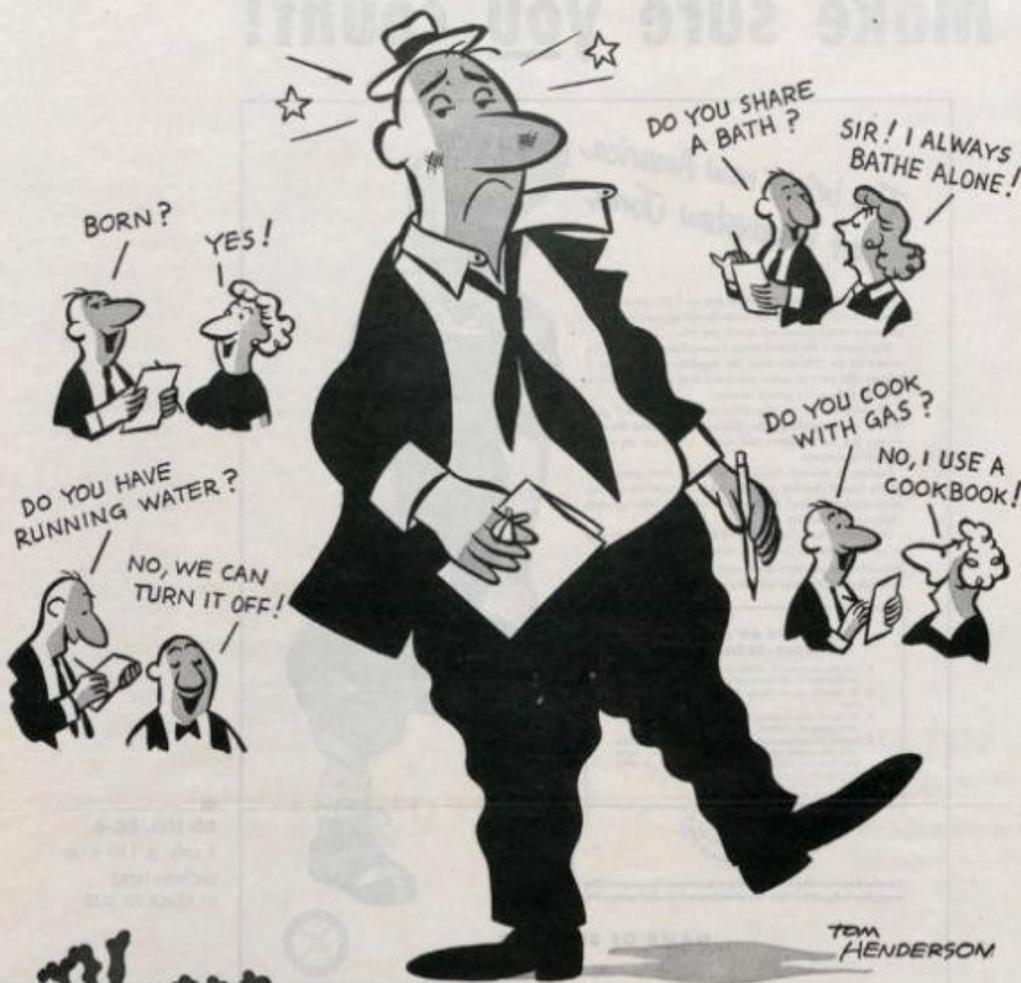
Members At Large: Lynn Dowdy  
Laura Rooks

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Retiring Corporate Member

We would like to extend a very heart-felt "Thank You" to Ken Jones of Ken Jones Body Shop, Inc. Ken has now officially retired and is no longer a Corporate Member. We would like to wish him all the best and again say "Thank You" for all of his support.

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# Please be direct with the Census-Taker!

**YOU'D BE FLABBERGASTED BY** some of the answers a Census-Taker gets.

This is tough on everybody, for two reasons. First, it slows up the Census-Taker's job—and with 150 million noses to count, that fellow has no time to waste.

Second, it results in an inaccurate Census—gives a picture of our country that's out of focus.

Since Census facts and figures are needed by communities and business in planning all kinds of good things like new schools and playgrounds, new parks and

roads, new hospitals, better housing, a better distribution of such services as telephones, electricity, gas and water—and to allot new Congressmen according to population changes—it is vitally important to get the picture into focus.

You can do your part by answering the Census-Taker's questions directly and honestly. Your radio and newspapers will do their best to tell you beforehand what most of the questions are. Have your answers ready!

**Information You Give to the Census-Taker is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!**

Every American citizen should know that all personal information given to the U. S. Census is confidential—under the law!

It is not available to any individual or to any other Government agency! Not to the Income Tax Office! Not to the Department of Justice—not even the F.B.I.! Not to anybody!

Uncle Sam takes the Census—not to pry into your past and present—but to help you plan for the future!



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Genealogy Mistakes that Everyone Makes (and How to Avoid Them)

BY AMY JOHNSON CROW

There are some common genealogy mistakes that researchers make. I was going to say that “beginners make,” but honestly, we all make these mistakes. So here are the most common mistakes in genealogy... and how you can avoid them.

It’s a Mistake to Take Everything at Face Value

You know the phrase, “Just because it’s in print, doesn’t mean it’s true.”? You definitely run into that as you’re researching your family tree.

This plays out in a lot of different ways. It can start with **those family stories you grew up with**. The more “fantastic” the story or the longer ago the events happened, the more likely it is to be.... not quite completely accurate.

Another way this plays out is what we see on different websites or in books. If you’ve explored some of the big genealogy websites like Ancestry, FamilySearch, or MyHeritage, **it isn’t always obvious that there are different kinds of sources, each with their own strengths and weaknesses**.

One of the most basic things to keep in mind is that **there’s a difference between family trees and records**. Other people’s family trees can be great clues... but they can also be utterly and completely wrong.

Attaching things to your tree just because it’s in someone else’s tree is a surefire way to make a mess of things. Think of it this way: If they have a generation wrong—say they have Robert’s father was John, but in reality Robert’s father was William—everything past that point in the tree is wrong. If you’ve attached that tree to yours, you’ve just added a whole bunch of people that you aren’t related to.

Going Too Fast Leads to Errors

That ties into the next biggest mistake that I see, which is going too fast. Ancestry and other genealogy websites make it so easy to see something and immediately attach it to your tree. It’s convenient... sometimes a little too convenient.

We’ll see a record pop up and at first blush it seems to fit, so **we attach it to our tree before we really take a look at it**.

Let’s say you’ve been trying to find the passenger list for your ancestor John Johnson, who was born in England around 1875. Up pops a result for a John Johnson arriving when you expected, so onto the tree it goes. The problem is that the record is actually for a John Johnson born in Sweden in 1883. Oops.

Another way that we go too fast is when **we don’t explore things that we already have**. If you’re just getting started, don’t just straight onto Ancestry. Explore what you already have. Talk to your elders. See what papers, photos, and documents you already have.

If you're a more experienced researcher, **are you reviewing your previous research?** Are you going through your notes and files. It is astounding how many times I've been able to answer a research question or at least get a good lead just by reviewing what I already have.

Skipping Steps

It's so tempting to find a fact about an ancestor and then start digging into something related to it. Say you discover that your ancestor living in Chicago in 1930 was born in Ireland, so you immediately start looking at records in Ireland. **Do you really know enough about that ancestor to be able to accurately identify him** in those Irish records?

I see this happen with people trying to prove a family legend. They heard Grandpa say that someone in the family was one of Abraham Lincoln's bodyguards, so they start trying to find a list of all of Lincoln's bodyguards and try to spot a familiar last name. **The better strategy is to work from the known to the unknown.** Keep researching your tree back until you get to the generations that would have been adults during the US Civil War and then dig into those ancestors' Civil War service.

It could be that the supposed bodyguard was a regular ol' private who never came close to Abraham Lincoln, but like a good fishing story, the facts got exaggerated over time.

Falling Into a Rut

A mistake that hits genealogists of all levels of experience is falling into a rut. They'll find a couple of websites that they like, and they end up **limiting their research to just those sites.**

We also fall into ruts of searching exactly the same way or looking at the same types of records over and over. Here's the thing. **There isn't a "one size fits all" search strategy.** Also, different types of records will give you different information and lead to more stories about your ancestors.

The Keys to More Success (and Less Frustration)

There's a reason that I haven't talked a lot about records. In my experience, the family historians who have the most success and the least amount of frustration with their research are the ones who **develop their sense of curiosity, not just about their ancestors, but about the records and the research process.**

If you're new to genealogy – or even if you've been doing this for awhile – don't get discouraged when you don't know something about a record or a certain research method. Very few people come into genealogy knowing all about these historical records and how to use them. Stay curious. When you're looking at a record you're unfamiliar with, take a minute and really look at it. If you're on a website, is there anything like an "about" page or a "frequently asked questions" page for that resource? **Stay open to learning** about different kinds of records and how you can use them.

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### GSCCA Board

President – Irene Goble  
Vice President - Deanna Ketcher  
Treasurer – Gail Lies  
Membership Director -- Debbie Powers  
Publications/Newsletters – Nancy Matthews

Recording Secretary – Joyce Seibert  
Corresponding Secretary – Susie Grommet  
Historian – Jan Beasley  
Publicity – Elizabeth Stokes

Members-At-Large: Lynn Dowdy & Laura Rooks

# GENEALOGY NIGHT LOCK-IN

(8<sup>th</sup> Winter Edition)

We had such high hopes to have a Lock-In in March. The Library has determined that might be a little too soon. So, the hope now is to have the Lock-In in July.

## Genealogy Night Lock-In

(15<sup>th</sup> Summer Edition)

Keep your fingers and toes crossed.

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts of all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

February 6, 1788 - Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the new U.S. Constitution, by a vote of 187 to 168.

February 17, 1909 - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.

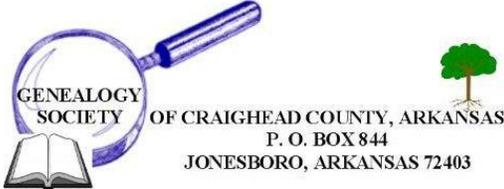
February 19, 1473 - Astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543) was born in Torun, Poland. Considered the founder of modern astronomy, he theorized that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system.

February 21, 1972 - President Richard Nixon arrived in China for historic meetings with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chau En-lai.

February 28, 1844 - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS *Princeton* exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.

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**CORPORATE MEMBERS**

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| <p align="center">in the end it's all<br/> <b>Relative</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Genealogy Lock-In</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |  <p align="center"><b>Lost<br/>         Pizza Co.</b><br/>         Get Lost<br/> <a href="http://www.LostPizza.com">www.LostPizza.com</a></p> <p align="center"><b>906 Southwest Dr. St. A-1<br/>         Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401</b></p> |