



MTGS Messenger

Vol. 20, No. 1

January 2024

Jim Long, Editor



Show Us What You've Got!

It's time for our annual show-and-tell meeting: "[Ancestors, Antiques, and Artifacts](#)." Everyone who has an interest in family history is welcome, whether a member or not.

The meeting will be held **Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00pm Central Time**, both in-person at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (weather permitting), and online via Zoom (regardless of the weather!).

Attend in-person or virtually, and see how some of our members became interested in genealogy. Share your own family history by sharing photos, artifacts, or heirlooms from your ancestors. We enjoy seeing photographs, clothing, jewelry, family history books or other books that talk about your family history.

This is an exciting get-together because we never know what items will be presented. Don't be shy! Bring something to share or attend to see what others are sharing. (The photo shown here was taken by Bonnie Winn at last year's Show and Tell.)

The Zoom link for this meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88999679362>



Seminar Follow-Ups from Dana Leeds, and a TV Alert

Thanks to everyone who came to our November Seminar and got their brains full of great DNA+genealogy training with Dana Leeds. Dana shared these follow-ups to a question that had been asked, and to some of the lecture points:

- "I wasn't able to answer a question someone asked about 'Unassigned' matches at Ancestry. I found a great article by Leah Larkin and wanted to pass that along. It's titled [AncestryDNA's SideView Assigns Matches to Parent Sides](#)."

- “One of the ThruLines hints we discussed was for Amelia ‘Millie’ Jones being the potential mother of my Sarah ‘Sally’ Vaughan. Well, because of that discussion, I've tackled that hint and just posted about it here: [Sometimes AncestryDNA ThruLines are Wrong: Disproving an Ancestral Hint](#)”
- “I was asked whether you could use cousins with the ‘option to add a second amount’ on Blaine Bettinger's [Shared cM Project tool, version 4](#). I said yes, but I only had used it for siblings. I'll be posting about that soon, too. But, in the meantime, the society might enjoy Blaine's post on the subject, [Leveraging the Power of Siblings and Cousins to Narrow Relationship Possibilities](#)”

Dana also shared that she worked with one of our favorite TV shows, “[Finding Your Roots](#)” on PBS, for one of the new season’s episodes. She worked with Wes Studi, whose episode will air **this Tuesday, January 16**. Check your local listings to see what Dana’s research revealed for Wes!

My First Leeds Chart, And a Big Payoff

At the end of the November Seminar, one of my friends who was also attending came up to me and described **a friend of hers with a DNA mystery**. That friend, whom I will call Minnie, didn’t know the identity of her mother’s mother, despite having tried for years through genealogy research and DNA analysis (‘tackling and swabbing’ neighbors who she thought might be carrying DNA clues to her grandmother’s identity). My friend asked if I would do a Leeds Chart analysis on Minnie’s DNA matches and see if I could make progress on solving the mystery.

Minnie gave me access to her DNA matches, and I created a Leeds Chart using the method that Dana had taught at the Seminar, using about 80 of Minnie’s 2nd/3rd cousin matches. Luckily, the method yielded a chart with only 4 colors, 3 of which I was able to attribute to Minnie’s three known grandparents. That led me to focus on the 4th cluster, which had to be the DNA matches through her unknown grandmother, right?

Using partial family trees put online by Minnie’s DNA matches, and good-old-fashioned genealogy research (building out family trees for many of the matches who didn’t have one online), I was able to construct a single family tree containing most of those matches, and to find a spot in it for Minnie’s mother, a spot that made the shared amounts of DNA with Minnie’s matches ‘work’.

After I was confident that I'd gotten the identification of Minnie's grandmother correct based on the paper trail and DNA analysis, I did a quick search, out of curiosity, in one additional record set, looking for a divorce that was suggested in part of the family tree that I'd constructed. I didn't find the divorce, but instead found **the adoption case for Minnie's mother**. My jaw dropped, and of course I wished that I'd found that record at the *beginning* of my research instead of the end! The adoption record confirmed the conclusion I'd already reached based on DNA+research.

I then met with my friend, and with Minnie, and made the revelation. The 'big payoff' was one of the best hugs I've ever received.

[RootsTech](#) returns February 29 – March 2 in Salt Lake City. This year, 1-day in-person passes to the world's largest genealogy conference are just \$69, and the 3-day pass is \$109, if purchased prior to the conference. Online attendance is still free, though there seems to be a shift back towards encouraging in-person attendance, as they're promoting 250+ sessions that will only be available to in-person attendees.

Attending RootsTech in person is genealogy-bucket-list experience, and more so when you combine it with research at the nearby [Family History Library](#). Who wouldn't want to be surrounded by thousands of fellow genealogy buffs and millions of reels of genealogy microfilm?



Crowd-Sourcing Project for Indexing World War I Questionnaires

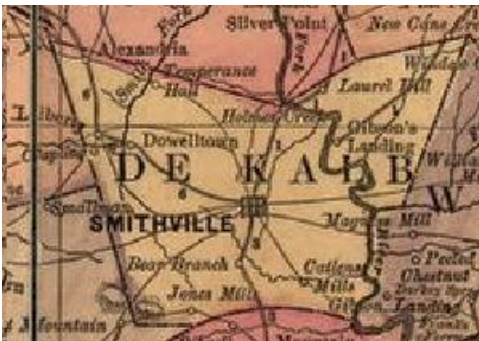
The Tennessee State Library and Archives has a crowd-sourcing project underway to index its collection of World War I Questionnaires. The project uses a tool called From the Page, which is free to use. Just [sign up for an account here](#), then [visit the Project page here](#).



First Families of Rutherford County

The Rutherford County Library System has announced a new program, **First Families of Rutherford County**. Rutherford County was petitioned to become its own county in October of 1803 and was officially chartered in January 1804. The program is to commemorate ancestors who not only founded the county, but ancestors who lived in Rutherford County during or before the 1850s.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program may email Kayla Howard of the Historical Research Center at hrc@rclstn.org. To learn more about the project and download an application, visit their webpage https://rclstn.org/?page_id=234. Applicants who have submitted an application and whose research has been verified will receive a certificate stating they are a direct descendent of a First Family of Rutherford County, TN.



First Families of DeKalb County

The [DeKalb County Genealogy Association](#) formed in July, and is also undertaking a First Families project for residents in the county by 1850. Read more about it [on their blog post](#).

Contact them via email, to dekalb.tennessee.genealogy@gmail.com. They will send you an application and additional information.



Bountiful Returns

Several years ago, I broke through a 'brick wall' on one of my ancestral lines, confirming a **Lewis** family that was in **Davidson** County in the 1810s, then wandered down-river through **Montgomery** and **Stewart** counties before moving to **Arkansas**. My ancestor **John Lewis** disappeared from the Independence Co., Arkansas records between 1851 and 1853. In 1853, his two minor children (Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis and Albert Lewis) had a guardian appointed back here in Stewart County to manage an **unspecified inheritance** from their deceased father. At the time of my

breakthrough, I had found a document containing an important clue, but had failed to follow up on it:

Stewart County Guardian Settlements, Volume C, page 114, February 1860 -

“L. D. Hargis, guardian for Mary Lewis, minor heir of John Lewis deceased, came before me at my office on the 21st day of January 1860 and made the following statement (to wit), that he became the guardian for the said Mary Lewis for the purpose of obtaining a land warrant due her deceased father. Said guardian states that **he obtained said warrant** and disposed of the same for cash...”

Since my John Lewis was born about 1790 according to census records, it was logical to suspect that the land warrant was due to him for **service during the War of 1812**. Knowing that there was a land warrant, I went to the Bureau of Land Management’s [General Land Office Records website](#) to find the land grant that was based on the warrant. There you can find land grants based on warrants that were awarded for military service from 1775-1855 (mostly War of 1812, Indian wars and the Mexican War), as well as Federal land grants that were *purchased* instead of awarded. The website has a great search tool, but be sure that, in the *Location* field, you change the default value for **State** from *Alabama* to *Any State*; otherwise you’ll only be searching for land that was granted in Alabama.

I searched for grants associated with the name John Lewis, and the search tool returned **only 900 results**. Gulp. And you have to ignore the *State* field in the results, as that tells you where each piece of land was *granted* – not where a potential War of 1812 ancestor had *served*. In the case of John Lewis, I knew that his warrant had been “disposed of” by the guardian, so I already knew that the actual land grant was going to be under someone else’s name – but the grant should at least *mention* a warrant associated with my John Lewis.

On the GLO website, you can click on each search result and view the details of the land grant, as well as a scan of the actual grant document (“patent”). So I began inspecting the 900 patent images, looking for my John Lewis. Result #63 of 900 caught my attention quickly:

MW-0814-456	EDES, SAMUEL C, LEWIS, MARY ANN ELIZABETH, LEWIS, JOHN	9/1/1854	24790	IA	5th PM	084N - 003W	S½SE¼	10	Jones
						084N - 003W	W½NE¼	15	Jones

My John Lewis’ youngest daughter (in the aforementioned 1853 guardianship appointment) was Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis. This search result indicates that in 1854, land had been granted in Jones Co., Iowa, and the patent referenced the names Samuel C. Edes, Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis and John Lewis. Here’s the delightful part of that patent image:

Service of the United States," Warrant No. 24,790 for 160 acres,
issued in favor of *Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis, minor child of John
Lewis deceased. Private in Captain Gray's Company Twenty-
fourth Regiment United States Infantry,
War of 1812*

Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis, minor child of John Lewis deceased, had been awarded **Warrant No. 24790** for 160 acres. John Lewis had been a Private in Captain Gray's Company, 24th Regiment of the United States Infantry, War of 1812. John Lewis wasn't in a state militia like so many War of 1812 veterans, but had enlisted in the regular Army. (Samuel Edes, by the way, was the person who purchased the land warrant and ultimately redeemed it for land in Iowa.)

That Warrant Number, 24790, was what I was hoping to find, and as you can see, it's sometimes time-consuming to locate. The fact that War of 1812 bounty-land had been awarded means that there was a **Bounty-Land Warrant application**. Genealogists know to love *pension* applications for military service, but we should also seek out *Bounty-Land Warrant* applications for our veteran ancestors who served in the early 1800s. This John Lewis warrant made no mention of Tennessee, but the name Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis attached to the record made it enough of a clue to take a chance and order the Bounty-Land Warrant application, hoping that it would be my John Lewis.

The Bounty Land Warrant applications are not online, nor have they been microfilmed or digitized. Many of these applications were incorporated into the later War of 1812 pension applications (which are mostly online), but my John Lewis had died long before the War of 1812 pension scheme started. Armed with the name John Lewis, the 24th Regiment of US Infantry, and Warrant No. 24790, I was able to [order a copy of the Bounty Land Warrant application](#) online. It was a \$30 gamble to see if this was my John Lewis.

Fold3 does have a free [index to the Bounty-Land Warrant applications](#). The index lists the name, rank, service year, state, military unit, warrant number and conflict period. But that information alone is rarely enough to take a \$30 gamble on ordering the actual bounty-land warrant application. For me, the key was using the BLM GLO website above to find that mention of Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis.

It took 5 months for the National Archives order to be processed, but it was well worth the wait. This was my John Lewis. He had applied for bounty land in 1850, while living in Independence County, Arkansas, but had died 2 months before the warrant was issued. A new warrant was issued to his daughter Mary Ann E. Lewis, based on the 1853 application of her guardian. The application confirmed John's exact age, that he had enlisted at Charlotte, TN in 1812 for 18 months, and had been discharged in 1814. His **original signature** was on the

application, and it matched other copies of his signature that I'd previously found in my research. Included was the affidavit made by the guardian of Mary Ann Elizabeth Lewis in Stewart County, stating that John Lewis died in Arkansas on June 26, 1851 (the only source of his death date). It gave the exact birthdates of the minor children, Albert Lewis and Mary A. E. Lewis.

Bounty Land Warrant applications can provide genealogical information that can be found nowhere else. It's worth the effort to seek them out.

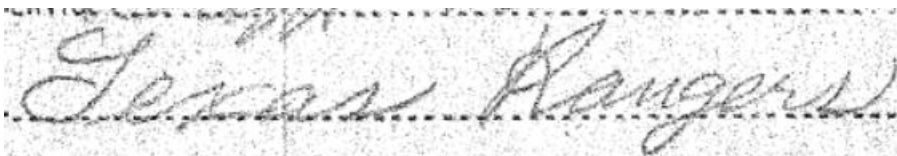
DNA Nerds, Unite!

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that my town has a **monthly genealogy discussion group**, which is a great place to hang out with like-minded genealogy nuts like me, share successes, and learn something new every meeting. Well, I've since learned that there's also a local DNA group, which meets every now and then - laptops, kit numbers and brick walls in tow - and shares successes, tips and challenges. I love it, too. "Minnie" was at the last gathering, and asked me to share my happy conclusion of her DNA story with the group.

A tool we use at every gathering is the aforementioned Shared cM Project's relationship chart by Blaine Bettinger – great for estimating possible kinship based on the amount of shared DNA.

What's the secret to having groups like these, you ask? A single individual willing to be the **facilitator**. Neither of my groups is formal *at all* – we just show up, enjoy each other's company, and take turns talking, teaching and learning.

Out of Left Field-ing



When I applied for the Bounty-Land Warrant application of my ancestor John Lewis, and 5 months later finally received that long-awaited email (I had requested electronic delivery of the application), my heart initially sank: the Archives employee had attached to the email a bounty-land warrant application that had been ordered *by some other customer*. After a follow-up email or two, I received a heartfelt apology from the Archives employee, and the application that I had ordered.

But then I wondered about the person who had ordered the file sent to me in error. Did they ever receive their order? The scanned images included a copy of their order, and their email address, so I forwarded them the email and attachment from the National Archives. I never heard back from them, though.

Next, the genealogist in me became curious about the *veteran* whose application I had been sent by mistake. It was for a Fielding H. Glasscock who had served in the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War, from 1847-1848. The name Glasscock immediately made me think of our longtime, late MTGS member, Brenta (Glascock) Davis. How she would have loved to have seen this record that was randomly sent to me!

Fielding H. Glasscock applied for bounty land in 1850, while a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico. His application states, "Said Fielding H. Glascock was born in **Rutherford County, State of Tennessee**, is five feet six inches high, light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, is twenty two years of age, and by occupation when enlisted, a farmer." What a happy coincidence to see!

One of the witnesses to his application in Santa Fe was **Hartford Gooch**. That made me think of our Charter and current Member, Virginia Gooch Watson, who immediately upon reading this newsletter is, no doubt, going to start researching Hartford Gooch and Fielding H. Glasscock of Santa Fe, New Mexico!