

The Arkansas Genealogical Society Ezine

Volume 2, Number 12 (December 2007)

Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley
and Lynda Childers Suffridge

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AGS Membership Application

www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm

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If you missed an issue of the Ezine, need to make an email address correction, or to add your address to the email list, please send an email to agsezine@agsgenealogy.org or go to www.agsgenealogy.org/Ezine.htm

AGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Members please look at the address label on your December 2008 *Arkansas Family Historian* to see when your membership dues expire. You do not want to miss any of the planned *Arkansas Family Historians*, privileges of access to the Members Only section of the AGS website www.agsgenealogy.org, first in line for limited and discounted research trips and early announcements of exciting genealogy news in Arkansas and the Nation. You may print a membership application from the website www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm.

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GREAT GENEALOGY GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Both single and household AGS memberships for your children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, friends, local library, museum, nursing home, school library, favorite genealogy club etc. the list goes on and on.

Don't delay—go to www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm

Single Membership	\$25
Household Memberships	\$35
Foreign	\$50

Books, CDs, microfiche and genealogy items at bargain prices; go to the web to shop for those unique gifts: www.agsgenealogy.org.

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Did you know . . .

There is an “AGS Members Only Corner” at our website?

Members of the Arkansas Genealogical Society have special privileges including access to an online index of all issues of the *Arkansas Family Historian* through 2005. Also available here are PDF files for the same period covered by the index.

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Table of Contents:

- Introduction
- New Members
- Discount on Family Tree DNA services
- News about Arkansas Genealogy
- Featured Arkansas Society
- Notes from Other Areas
- Desmond's Research Tips
- Upcoming articles: *Arkansas Family Historian*
- Events
- Book Notices
- AGS Publications
- Queries
- Arkansas Links

Introduction

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sending you this Ezine (electronic magazine) to keep you informed about information, activities, publications, and web links to help our members with their genealogical research in Arkansas. It is a free service to AGS members and to anyone, including non-AGS members who are interested in Arkansas genealogy.

This E-zine is a supplement to, not a replacement of, the quarterly publication, the *Arkansas Family Historian*, which is a benefit of membership in AGS.

Please let us know if you like this new service or if you have any information or helpful links to include in the next addition. All suggestions are welcomed. Email AGS_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org with comments or information.

Queries will also be accepted, if they are clear and concise as to time and place, and pertain to Arkansas. Information about upcoming family reunions, county genealogical society events, new books, or any other items of interest are also accepted. We'd also like to hear your anecdotes about researching Arkansas topics or any special problems or questions you have. This E-zine is for you, the members, and we want to include anything that might assist you in your research.

Special Notice:

Announcing the Latest Publications Arkansas Genealogical Society

ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX, VOLUME 5

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has just published the *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volume 4*. This volume continues the indexing of the births in Arkansas before February 1, 1914. These original records have never been published, since the Vital Records office did not have an accurate index.

Volunteers from AGS indexed the data for the Vital Records office and are allowed to publish all birth certificates that are 100 years old. This volume sells for \$75.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping. Tax must be added for Arkansas residents.

This CD is the combination of the Volumes 1–5. It sells \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping. It is searchable by the birth name, mother's maiden name, county, and date. This CD is great for your personal library. Tax must be added for Arkansas residents.

Shipping & Handling

Added before tax

Under \$20.00	\$2.50
\$21.00-\$49.99	\$7.00
\$50.00-\$125.99	\$12.50
\$126.00 and up	10% of order

To order these publications send a check or money order to:
 Arkansas Genealogical Society
 POB 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222

Or print order form at www.agsgenealogy.org

Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax.

New AGS Members

ROSEMARY	CORNWELL	MODESTO	CA	
CHRISTINA JACKSON		BEATY	SPRINGFIELD	MO
DOROTHY A		HOWERY	HOUSTON	TX
GAIL		RAVELLETTE	SHERWOOD	AR
GAIL		LIES	JONESBORO	AR
GEORGE & SHEILA MOORE		MITCHELL	PINE BLUFF	AR
GREG & VICKI		BOYD	NORMAN	OK
HAROLD & DAN		WOHLENBERG	IRVING	TX
JAMES J		JOHNSTON	FAYETTEVILLE	AR
JULIA P		GREHAM	NEW ORLEANS	LA
KAREN & RONALD		RUSS	LITTLE ROCK	AR
LARRY		WOODWARD	JACKSONVILLE	AR
MARTHA HICKS		PIERCE	STUTTGART	AR
MARY		BAXLEY	SHERIDAN	AR
MARY ANNE		BERRY	CANADIAN	TX
MARY F		JACKSON	TEXARKANA	TX
NANCY		MATTHEWS	JONESBORO	AR
REBA		BLAZI	SPRINGDALE	AR
ROB		PETERSON	LITTLE ROCK	AR
SHIRLEY GILLCOATT		ROSENCRANTZ	STUTTGART	AR
SYLVIA		ROGERS	CHICAGO	IL

AGS Members: Family Tree DNA Discount

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is proud to be associated with Family Tree DNA, the largest genetic genealogy testing company in the world. This partnership program has the objective of providing reduces group rates for members to test their DNA for genealogy purposes, and at the same time present additional revenue for AGS without costing more to the member.

You can order at lower group rates through the Arkansas Genealogical Society. To do so, you can either call or fill in the form at www.ftdna.com/surname_join.asp?code=L81808.

For additional testing for genealogical purposes you can log on to the website at www.familytreedna.com or contact them at info@familytreedna.com or 713-868-1438.

News about Arkansas Genealogy:

Lew Roberts, a Outstanding AGS Volunteer!

By Desmond Walls Allen

In 1992, AGS published *Cemetery Inscriptions Published in Thirty Years of the Arkansas Family Historian*, by Lewis E. Roberts. Lew, an AGS volunteer, painstakingly extracted every *AFH* mention of a cemetery and copied all the individual headstone records into a massive database. The huge volume was a success!

Through the years, book sales helped raise money for AGS. When all the print copies sold out, AGS continued to offer the book on microfiche, but those sales trickled away as more researchers wanted digital copies of resources.

Now, Lew's marvelous book is available again, this time on CD in Adobe's portable document format (.pdf) with searchable text.

Who is this wonderful man who donated so many hours to AGS? I asked Lew for a biographical sketch:

Lewis E. Roberts Jr. was born at Franklin, Izard County, Arkansas, and lived there until age seven when the family relocated within the county to Oxford, Arkansas. After graduation from Oxford High School he enlisted in the US Air Force where he served three years in the Medical Corps. While in the service he attended the School of Aviation Medicine successfully attaining the classification of Aero-Medical Technician. Aero Med Techs were assigned to small and or remote facilities having no doctors.

Separated from the service with a little nest egg, enhanced by poker playing skills, he did odd jobs here and there while expanding his education in Chicago in the Industrial Engineering and Business Accounting fields. Upon completion he moved to Wenatchee, Washington where his family was living.

He joined the Boeing Company at their Moses Lake, Washington facility in the Industrial Engineering Group in 1959. In 1962 he was transferred to New Orleans for the startup of the Space Program and in 1965 transferred to Huntsville, Alabama where Boeing was the Systems Engineering Contractor for NASA. Phase down of the Space Program in 1973 moved Mr. Roberts and family to the Boeing home base in Seattle, Washington. For the next seventeen years he was associated with US Air Force weapons systems. He retired a Program Planning Manager for the Space & Defense Division of the Boeing Company in 1990.

He is the son of Lewis E. and Lora Tucker Roberts, the grandson of John Stacy and Mary Ann McAnally Roberts, and John F. and Charity Gleghorn Tucker. His paternal lines include Kyle, Dodd, Luttrill, and Churchwell. His maternal lines include Moss, Stewart, Lay, Wilson, Gault, Coffee, Graham, Grant, and Coulter. All of his family lines were in this country in the 1700s.

He married in 1960 Joyce Elizabeth Shriner who departed this life in 2005. Their daughter Stacey is the Director of Accounts Receivable and Credit for Alaska Air Lines, and grandson Lewis is a senior at the University of Washington. Roberts now lives in Monroe, Washington.

Why not drop Lew a note at lewrobjr@comcast.net and say thanks for his devotion to AGS?

The CD with Lew's cemetery book is available from AGS, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222, for \$12.50 plus \$2.50 shipping (and Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax).

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## AGS Family History Writing Contest

Arkansas Genealogical Society is sponsoring a writing contest for 2008 to promote sound genealogical research in Arkansas and encourage quality writing and publishing of family history.

First Prize, the Bobbie Jones McLane Award, is \$150. The award is named for the long-time Arkansas researcher, author and publisher, in recognition of her contributions to Arkansas research and to the Arkansas Genealogical Society.

The Second Prize winner will receive \$75 and the Third Prize winner will receive \$50.

Judging will be based on quality of research; use of primary and secondary sources; citation of sources by footnotes or endnotes; style, theme and content; and use of graphics (photographs, maps, charts).

Winning entries will be announced and prizes awarded at the October 2008 AGS Fall Conference. The first place entry will be published in the December 2008 issue of the *Arkansas Family Historian*.

The judges and the editorial board reserve the right to limit prizes to acceptable submissions. All entries become the property of Arkansas Genealogical Society. The author will retain all publication rights.

### CONTEST

**WHO** The AGS Family History Writing Contest is open to everyone except members of the Editorial Board. You do not have to be a member of AGS in order to enter.

**WHAT** The contest is limited to family history articles with an Arkansas connection. Entries should be about 4000 words or less and not have been previously published.

**WHEN** Submissions must be postmarked by 30 June 2008.

**HOW** Submissions must be accompanied by an entry form, which appears in the *Arkansas Family Historian* or interested parties can contact AGS for the form. Please provide a short statement of your genealogical research experience and send one printed copy of your entry to the mailing address and an electronic copy to [publications@agsgenealogy.org](mailto:publications@agsgenealogy.org). or send one printed copy and a CD or floppy disc copy of your entry to the mailing address. In order to ensure confidentiality in judging, do not include your name in the article or on the title page.

**WHERE** Mail your entry to AGS Contest, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222. If you include an e-mail address, you will receive confirmation of receipt of your entry.

**JUDGING** At least three separate and independent persons will read, judge, and rank all entries as to their acceptability and according to the criteria stated above. The authors of the articles judged remain anonymous to the panel of jurors.

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## For Sale on eBay

### John William Weed Jr. Framed Photo Son of Clara Weed (1872–1959), North Little Rock's First Female Alderman

By Carolyn Earle Billingsley

Like many of you, I hate seeing family history and photos disappearing or being separated from their history. Right now, for sale on eBay is a wonderful framed photograph at <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=310002907644>

The description is as follows:

Antique Oval Convex Bubble Glass Arkansas boy 20"x 14"

Antique Oval Convex Bubble Glass Picture Frame 20 "x14". The frame is in very good condition, brass I think. The back of the frame is tin and has flexible metal tabs that hold the back in place. The glass is convex and is in very good condition without any scratches or chips. The drummer boy is my great uncle (according to my Aunt) who lived in North Little Rock, Arkansas and is circa 1920. Auction ends 4 December 2007, 12:57:32 PST

When I wrote the seller for more information he told me that the boy in the photo is John William Weed Jr.

The seller's aunt called him Uncle Bill and said it was her father's brother. The seller's aunt is now 90 years old. The seller wrote:

"I figure the picture is circa 1910. John William Weed Jr. was raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He was my grandfather's brother and I don't remember ever meeting him. His parents were John William and Clara Weed, also of North Little Rock. Clara was originally from St Louis, Mo. My aunt told me many years ago why they dressed him like a drummer boy, but I can't remember now

what she said. When I can get her on the phone I'll ask her again and let you know what else she remembers about him."

I just now received an email from the seller with further clarification about the subject of this photo. He writes:

"The picture is of her [his aunt's] Uncle Fredrick (my grandfather), not his brother Bill. She said that the outfit he is wearing was made by his mother (Clara) from her wedding dress. Clara was the first lady alderman of North Little Rock. She was appointed as alderman after her husband was shot and killed during a robbery of their store:

**Clara Weed: 1872 to 1959**

Clara Weed was North Little Rock's first female alderman in 1929. Appointed by the City Council after the death of her husband, Alderman John W. Weed, she won a special election in August 1929 and then went on to win full terms on the council in the municipal elections of 1931 and 1933. She served on the council until April 1935. <http://www.nlrhistory.com/search/results.php>

Fredrick Oscar Weed, 5/27/1892 – 6/14/1956 was raised in NLR and later kept his family going during the Depression as a musician. He played the piano and taught piano lessons. He had 5 children, including my father. He looks to be about 10 years old in the picture so I would guess the picture was taken around 1902 or so. He died when I was young and I have very few memories of him.

Hope this helps clarify the history of the picture. Mike Weed"

Somebody will probably buy this photograph and possibly throw out the photo just to keep the old frame. Even if they keep the item intact, it will be disconnected from its history. If this is a member of your family, or if you're a member of a society with the means to acquire North Little Rock or Pulaski County, memorabilia, I hope you'll consider buying this, even if you simply donate it to an archive or museum.

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## Encyclopedia of Arkansas Calendars

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture is presenting its 2008 calendars for order.

The calendars feature 13 photos plus more than 170 events from Arkansas's history. They make great gifts for Arkansas history buffs,

and the proceeds from the sale help fund the project.

The cost is \$10 per calendar plus a total of \$2 shipping and handling (regardless of quantity). Order from:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas  
Central Arkansas Library System  
100 Rock Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

We hope you enjoy exploring Arkansas history throughout the year with your Encyclopedia of Arkansas calendar.

Cordially,  
Nathania Sawyer, Senior Editor  
The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture  
(501) 918-3026

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**Women of the Central High Crisis:  
The Politics of Gender and Desegregation**

**Exhibit at Arkansas History Commission**

In honor of Fiftieth Anniversary of the integration of Central High School, *Women of the Central High Crisis: The Politics of Gender and Desegregation* will be on exhibit at Arkansas History Commission from September 16 through December 14, 2007. The exhibit examines the roles of women in the Central High Crisis over desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1957 to 1959.

The Arkansas History Commission in conjunction with the Central High School National Historic Site and the Public History Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock developed this exhibition. The exhibit is free and open to the public at the Arkansas History Commission at One Capitol Mall in Little Rock, Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, contact the Arkansas History Commission at 501.682.6900.

Arkansas History Commission  
One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
501.682.6900  
[www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com)  
[state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov)

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## Arkansas Statewide Marriage Indexing Project Seeks Volunteers

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is pleased to announce a very exciting new project. AGS is partnering with FamilySearch to compile a statewide index to Arkansas Marriages. There is currently no statewide marriage index. Working from home volunteers will be able to use digital images of historical documents available over the internet to create searchable indexes.

When ready for publication, the index will be made available FREE OF CHARGE and those searching the index will be able to link to the digital image through <http://familysearch.org> and on the Arkansas Genealogical Society's webpage at [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org).

The Arkansas Marriages Indexing Project is ready to go on <http://Familysearchindexing.org>. If you wish to volunteer to be an indexer please email [agsindexing@comcast.net](mailto:agsindexing@comcast.net).

You will be assigned a username, password, and given instructions for the project.

To index records, all indexers must first download the FamilySearch Indexing program. To download the program, go to [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org). Click Install Now. **Once you have a username & password you can start indexing!**

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### AGS E-mail List

To sign up for the AGS e-mail list, send an email to [ags-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:ags-request@rootsweb.com)?subject=subscribe. List-Archive: If you haven't joined the list, you can still read the archived posts to the AGS-L at <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index?list=ags>

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### Craighead County Obituary Index completed

Gail Lies <[nglies@nex.net](mailto:nglies@nex.net)>

Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2007 11:40 PM  
To: [ags@rootsweb.com](mailto:ags@rootsweb.com)  
Subject: Re: [AGS] Craighead County Obit Index completed

In 2001 a gentleman by the name of Ed Gerdes started work on creating the Deaths *and Obituary Index* from the Jonesboro newspapers. Ed passed away in 2004. Since that time, Joyce Whitten has continued to work on that Index.

Joyce has now completed the Index. There were a number of newspapers that covered the Jonesboro area in the early years and all are included in the index. This is a project that has taken 6.5 years to complete.

The *Jonesboro Sun* (and other area papers) obituary index is online. You are invited to the Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas' website at [www.gscca.net](http://www.gscca.net) to take a look. Scroll down a little and click on *Jonesboro Sun Obituary Index*.

## **Arkansan Appointed to APG Board**

The results of the recent APG Board of Directors election have been announced and Carolyn Earle Billingsley, Ph.D. has been elected from our region to the Association of Professional Genealogists Board of Directors. Billingsley also serves on the Arkansas Genealogical Society Board of Directors.

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## **ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION**

THE ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION WILL MEET AT THE ARCHIVES OF THE GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 328 QUAPAW, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, 13 DECEMBER 2007, AT 10:00 A.M. ALL MEDIA INVITED

Arkansas History Commission  
One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
501.682.6900  
[www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com)  
[state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov)

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## **Tontitown Celebrates a Smear of Heritage**

By Dustin Tracy Northwest Arkansas Times  
Posted on Monday, November 5, 2007

Old pictures line the wall of St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Tontitown. . . .

It was a time for authentic Italian cuisine, it was a time for family and friends and it was a time for remembering heritage and maybe discovering more at the sixth annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-fashioned Polenta Smear on Sunday. Bev Cortiana, board president for the Tontitown Museum, said the event is a big get together for the Tontitown family. "Mainly we just wanted something where we could get people to bring pictures in and just visit," Cortiana said. "It's a bunch of cousins getting back together." Cortiana referred to Tontitown's rich Italian heritage, one that began with a few Italian settlers and is still growing.

Read the full story here:

<http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/58969/>

Editor's Note: I just purchased a book on eBay: *Boy, The Stories I Could Tell . . . A Narrative History of the Italians of Little Italy, Arkansas*, by Christopher A. Dorer (2002). If you have Italian heritage in Arkansas, you might also enjoy this book. The book states you can order from Christopher Doer, 33405 Hwy. 300, Roland, AR 72135, but it doesn't give a price.

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## **Arkansas Gravestone Photo Project**

Posted on the Saline County Rootsweb List, 23 November 2007  
By Tootie Dennis

Greetings Arkansas Researchers,

I would like to invite you to check out the Arkansas Gravestone Photo Project and participate in its growth as it will only grow with everyone's involvement.

The Arkansasgravestones.org is a wonderful tool to preserve the headstones of your ancestors. With the advent of time and weather and vandalism, our headstones are disappearing at an alarming rate. We need to work on preserving a digital image of our family stones as a fitting tribute to our ancestors. This site is an easy-to-use site that exists to make this preservation possible. Additionally there is no cost to the contributor or to anyone wanting to view the photos, hard to find in this day and age where everything costs something. Plus this is a great way to have a backup for all those photos you presently have. There are no annoying ads flashing, moving or popping.

Particularly valuable are those very old headstone photos that you have in grandma's photo album. Scan them into your computer and add them to the site as they may be the only testament to your ancestors' life. Share them with the world.

This is the link for the site: [www.Arkansasgravestones.org](http://www.Arkansasgravestones.org)

Arkansasgravestones.org has just come on line. We are presently working to get it setup and we would invite you to check it out. Also, I am asking for your help, please add your photos to the site. Every county will have space.

I am your Arkansas State coordinator and I am truly excited about being involved. If you need help in adding your pictures i will be glad to help....another great way to save a grave.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [tootied@suddenlink.net](mailto:tootied@suddenlink.net) to respond to this message. Many of you know me for my SHARP research. Any one interested in hosting any of the counties i would like to hear from you. For you information there are 11 more states with the gravestones.org sites and more are being added.

Thank you very much!  
Tootie Dennis aka Ira Sharp Dennis  
[tootied@suddenlink.net](mailto:tootied@suddenlink.net)

The following states are currently using a version of the Gravestone Photo Project software:

[www.arizoniagravestones.org](http://www.arizoniagravestones.org)  
[www.arkansasgravestones.org](http://www.arkansasgravestones.org)  
[www.coloradogravestones.org](http://www.coloradogravestones.org)  
[www.illinoisgravestones.org](http://www.illinoisgravestones.org)  
[www.iowagravestones.org](http://www.iowagravestones.org)  
[www.marylandgravestones.org](http://www.marylandgravestones.org)  
[www.mainegravestones.org](http://www.mainegravestones.org)  
[www.nebraskagravestones.org](http://www.nebraskagravestones.org)  
[www.newgrunswickgravestones.org](http://www.newgrunswickgravestones.org) (Canada)  
[www.newmexicogravestones.org](http://www.newmexicogravestones.org)  
[www.newyorkgravestones.org](http://www.newyorkgravestones.org)  
[www.ohiogravestones.org](http://www.ohiogravestones.org)  
[www.oregongravestones.org](http://www.oregongravestones.org)  
[www.pennsylvaniagravestones.org](http://www.pennsylvaniagravestones.org)

## UALR's Evenings with History Series

UALR history professors will offer scholarly insights on historical subjects this season in six nationally recognized *Evenings with History* lectures, featuring topics that range from Marie Antoinette's jewels to the "first" war on terror in the 1970s.

The University History Institute, established in 1987, is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging interest in historical scholarship and to developing community support for [UALR's Department of History](#). The institute sponsors the annual *Evenings with History* series of talks, the proceeds of which are used to purchase research materials for the UALR [Ottenheimer Library](#), as well as other public lectures and events.

History buffs can subscribe to the series for a \$50 individual membership or \$90 for a subscription for two. Life memberships, and corporate memberships are also available.

All lectures this year will be held at the Ottenheimer Auditorium in the [Historic Arkansas Museum](#) at 200 E. Third St. in Little Rock. Each lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. following a 7 p.m. fellowship and refreshments reception.

Other lectures are:

- Kristin Dutcher Mann lectures on "Pascuas de Navidad: Christmas Celebrations in Northern New Spain," when Christian feast days blended with indigenous celebrations, on Dec. 4.
- Tom Kaiser presents, "Diamonds Are a Queen's Best Friend," Marie-Antoinette and the Diamond Necklace Affair," one of the greatest jewel heists of the 18th century, on Feb. 12.
- Clea Bunch, "The First War on Terror: Black September 1970," discusses the relationship between the United States and Jordan during the domestic conflict with Palestinians in Jordan that challenged King Hussein's sovereignty, on March 4.
- Bill Wiggins utilizes his vast collection of contemporary Indian art to illustrate, "Cross Cultural Influences in Contemporary Native American Art: We Did Not Disappear. We Just Became Invisible," on April 1.

<http://ualr.edu/news/index.php/2007/09/12/university-history-institute-sets-evenings-with-history-series/>

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## Featured Arkansas Society:

### **Cleveland County, Arkansas, Historical & Genealogical Society**

Cleveland County, Arkansas, Historical & Genealogical Society meets the first Thursday of each month at the Sturgis Library in Rison at 7 p.m.

In October 2007, the Society published a booklet *The Battle of Mt. Elba* through a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Previously through another grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council, they published a booklet *The Saline River: A Stream of History*.

In 2006, the Cleveland County Historical & Genealogical Society compiled *Cleveland County, Arkansas: Our History and Heritage, Volume I*, a 584-page book printed by Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc.

Copies are available from Cleveland County Historical & Genealogical Society, PO Box 192, Rison, Arkansas.

There are several helpful indexes online of Cleveland County records at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ar/cleveland/cleveland.html>

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## Notes from Other Areas:

### **Arkansas Speakers at National Conference**

Lynda Suffridge, AGS Board member will be speaking during the 2008 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States at the Hyatt

Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri, to be held from the 14th to the 17th of May 2008.

Her first presentation will be "The Arkansas Traveler's Guide to Research" on Friday 16 May at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, 17 May from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. she will be conducting a Workshop for Beginners with Connie Lenzen, CG.

Buford Suffridge will be speaking on "Civil War Uniforms: Sizing up Your Ancestor" on Wednesday, 14 May at 4 p.m. and "The Nuts and Bolts of Using DNA Testing" on Saturday 17 May at 9:30 a.m.

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## **Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research Samford University**

**18–23 June 2008  
Birmingham, Alabama**

For those who have been waiting for Samford's registration to open up, here is your chance to one of the first to do so. Some of these classes sell out quickly so consult your calendars, click on the course links to see the detailed class schedules and decide (or ask Santa!) which class to register for.

You can either register on-line or print out the form and mail it.

For more information or to register, go to  
[www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/](http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/)

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## **Attendee registration for the 2008 Conference in the States and Family History Fair is now open**

Excitement is already building for the National Genealogical Society Conference in the States and Family History Fair which will be held 14-17 May 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme, "**Show me the Way to Our Nation's Records,**" is based upon the unofficial state motto of Missouri and the outstanding program focused on those records will suggest new research opportunities and enhance your family history research skills.

In addition to more than 150 lectures and workshops, receptions will be held at the Mid-Continent Public Library and the National World War I Museum. Research opportunities are also available at the new Mid-Continent Public Library and the National Archives Regional Center. For more details about the conference program, visit [http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/conf\\_program.cfm](http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/conf_program.cfm) .

You can make your [hotel reservations](#), browse the [exhibitor list](#), [register for the conference](#) and use the conference planner to schedule your days at the conference all at the conference site at <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/> .

**REGISTER TODAY!**

We wish you all the very best in your genealogical research and look forward to seeing you in Kansas City.

**3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22204  
[REGISTRATION@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:REGISTRATION@ngsgenealogy.org)  
Tel: (703) 525-0050  
Fax: (703) 525-0052**

Mark Your Calenders - NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair, May 14-17 2008, Kansas City, Missouri

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**Nationwide Local and County Histories  
to Go Online**

Three genealogical libraries pool their collections in massive digitization effort

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH— Thousands of published family histories, city and county histories, historic city directories, and related records are coming to the Internet. The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library, and FamilySearch's Family History Library in Salt Lake City announced the joint project today. When complete, it will be the most comprehensive collection of city and county histories on the Web—and access will be free at [www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu).

The digital history project will target over 100,000 published family histories and thousands of local histories that are rich in names as well

as biographical and genealogical data associated with those names. "Publishing those collections from the three libraries involved will make a significant and attractive family history digital library online for genealogists and historians," said David Rencher, director of Records and Information for FamilySearch.

"I believe the most immediate, substantial contribution of this collaboration will be the addition of local history materials," said Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center Manager, Curt Witcher. The collaborative project will digitally scan thousands of historic city directories, as well as city and county histories from North America. The ACPL and the Family History Library have the largest collections of city and county histories from North America. "I believe the strength of our two well known, well used, and well loved institutions working together is a terrific benefit to the genealogical community," added Witcher.

Once digitized, the collections will have "every word" search capability, which allows users to search by name, location, date, or other field across the collection. The search results are then linked to high quality digital images of the original publication. Digitization efforts have begun. New additions will be noted and hyperlinked in the Family History Library Catalog at FamilySearch.org as they are digitized. The collection can be accessed currently at [www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu).

FamilySearch is providing the computers, scanners, and camera operators required to complete the project.

FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. FamilySearch maintains the world's largest repository of genealogical resources accessed through FamilySearch.org, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and over 4,500 family history centers in 70 countries.

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## **Archiving the Americas: Rice partnership receives National Leadership Grant**

BY JESSICA STARK  
Rice University News Staff  
"Rice News and Media Relations,"  
10/10/2007

<http://www.media.rice.edu:80/media/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=10099>

New online research tools that can help scholars around the world will be developed with a National Leadership Grant awarded to Rice.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently awarded Rice University, in partnership with the University of Maryland, the prestigious grant for the Our Americas Archive Project (OAAP). The project will help users search, browse, analyze and share content from various online collections.

The three-year grant of nearly \$1 million will supplement equivalent funds from the partnership among Rice's [Fondren Library](#), the [Humanities Research Center](#) (HRC) and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH).

The end result will be a free, comprehensive online archive with resources from distributed repositories that will allow users to more easily discover relevant source materials in English and other languages. OAAP software will be developed under an open source license.

Geographic visualization, new social tagging and tag cloud cluster models are some of the new interface techniques that the OAAP will develop to create innovative search pathways.

"By making hemispheric material available open-access worldwide, we are taking a first step in furthering scholarly dialogue and research across borders" said Caroline Levander, HRC director. "We plan to develop innovative research tools that will help generate a collaborative, transnational research community."

By conforming to best practices in library and information science and incorporating Web 2.0 technologies, OAAP will address challenges that have traditionally hindered researchers and scholars. Currently, electronic resources are housed in multiple online systems with inconsistent or domain-specific vocabularies, making it difficult to find and organize relevant sources, particularly non-English sources.

The OAAP's new tools will first be tested on two online collections of materials in English and Spanish: Maryland's [Early Americas Digital Archive](#) and a [new digital archive of multilingual materials](#) being developed at Rice. The two multilingual archives illustrate the complex politics and histories that characterize the American hemisphere and also provide unique opportunities to further digital research in the humanities.

"Our goal is to develop new ways of doing research as well as new objects of study -- to create a new, interactive community of scholarly inquiry," said Geneva Henry, executive director of Rice's Digital Library Initiative.

Henry, Levander and Neil Fraistat, MITH director, developed OAAP to support scholarly inquiry into the Americas from a hemispheric perspective. The project is uniquely suited for the hemispheric approach because its digital platform makes available materials that are dispersed in different geographic locations.

"Cultural institutions energize their communities not just by preserving

culture, heritage and knowledge, but by supporting life-long learning and engagement," said Anne-Imelda Radice, IMLS director. "National Leadership Grants harness the work of the best of these institutions. By promoting innovation and partnerships, they allow these institutions to create national models that address the challenges of the broader library and museum communities, and help strengthen their impact."

National Leadership Grants help libraries and museums collaborate, build digital resources, and conduct research and demonstration projects. The selected projects are national models that will help foster individual achievement, community responsibility and life-long learning. This year 213 grant applications were received; 43 awards of more than \$18 million were made.

The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a "Nation of Learners" because life-long learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convenings, research and publications, the institute empowers museums and libraries to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build 21st-century skills and increase civic participation. To learn more about the institute, visit: <http://www.ims.gov>.

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## **New Resource from Chicago's Newberry Library**

Submitted by Russell P. Baker, CA,  
Archival Manager, Arkansas History Commission  
[russell.baker@arkansas.gov](mailto:russell.baker@arkansas.gov)

Newbury Library in Chicago has a new research tool available on line. It is an interactive map of the city that allows the researcher to enter an address and the location comes up the map along with its neighborhood, etc .Great tool for urban genealogical research. Here is the address:

<http://www.newberry.org/media/ChicagoAncestors.html>

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**Records for Civil Service Employees  
Who Don't Qualify for Social Security**

These records are held at the National Personnel Records Center:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/index.html>

CPR houses the Official Personnel Folders (OPF) and Employee Medical Folders (EMF) of separated Federal civilian employees. CPR also houses personnel documents that date back to the mid-nineteenth century, although the bulk of the collection covers the period from 1900 to present. The medical records of military family members treated at Army, Air Force and Coast Guard medical facilities are also stored here.

See web site for more information.

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## **Oklahoma Territorial Census, 1890 and 1907 From Records Update, Ancestry**

If you've got Sooner blood, this will probably be the best shot you'll have at finding your ancestors here. A year after the Land Rush of 1889, Oklahoma's first state census was conducted—the only official, documented census of the area at the time. Because the national 1890 U.S. Federal Census was lost to a fire in 1921, this may be the only reliable information on early Oklahoma's history. In it, you'll find race, gender, age and family relationship information.

Editor's Note: These records are only available through a subscription with Ancestry.com.

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## **myfamily.com 2.0 Beta Adds Online Family Trees from Ancestry.com**

### **From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter**

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2007/11/myfamilycom-20.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/11/myfamilycom-20.html)

The following announcement was written by The Generations network, the parent company of myfamily.com, ancestry.com and several other web sites:

Combination of Private Family Networking with Family Tree Building  
Provides Unrivaled Online Collaboration and Discovery

BELLEVEUE, Wa., Nov. 19 -- myfamily.com, the leading private social networking service for families, today announced the launch of its Family Trees application through the integration of Ancestry.com's

family tree service, enabling members to create and share family trees right in their myfamily.com sites.

With this release, myfamily.com members can now create, share, print and publish an online family tree. Users can start a new tree on their site or upload an existing family tree from a GEDCOM file (a standard genealogical file format) to their myfamily.com site. Site members can then work together to add photos, videos, audio stories and other information to each profile on their family tree. This new feature links myfamily.com users to the wealth of digitally scanned historical documents and family history research tools provided by its sister site Ancestry.com and is the latest in an innovative pipeline of services and features recently added to myfamily.com as a part of an extensive redesign of the site.

"The combination of myfamily.com's collaborative environment and Ancestry.com's one-of-a-kind tree-building tools creates the ideal online meeting place for families to share the present and discover the past," said Michael Graff, general manager of myfamily.com. "This provides a great opportunity for families to create and preserve their family memories as they get together throughout the country this Thanksgiving."

myfamily.com 2.0 beta offers free, customizable Web sites where families and friends can gather online to share the latest news, recipes, photos, videos and now family trees in a safe, private and media-rich environment. With a membership base of nearly 2 million members, myfamily.com has been the leading private family social networking site since its launch in 1998. Current myfamily.com 1.0 members who created a family tree on their original site will soon be able to migrate these existing trees into an Ancestry.com tree if they choose. For more details, please visit the Migration Center at: <http://help.myfamily.com/>.

"This integration of our two premiere services is a significant milestone and evolution of The Generation Network's mission to connect families across distance and time," said Tim Sullivan, president and CEO of The Generations Network, parent company of myfamily.com and Ancestry.com. "Combining the here and now with a family's past is a strategic and powerful combination, offering families an unrivaled opportunity to collaborate in a safe environment."

The new myfamily.com site represents a full-scale redesign of the myfamily.com service and is now in open beta for users to try out. In addition to the Ancestry.com family tree integration, several new enhancements were released this week:

- Custom Themes - allows members to customize the look and feel of their sites
- Rich Text Formatting - allows members to change font, font size, color, alignment, indenting, add links and add emoticons throughout their sites

- Upload and Copy - members can post videos and photos simultaneously to multiple myfamily.com sites, especially helpful for young families sharing content with both parents and in-laws on two separate sites
- "As-it-Happens" Site Update Notifications - immediate email notifications sent to family members as soon as new content is added to their site

One of the most popular new features of myfamily.com 2.0 beta is SnapGenie, a photo slideshow with voice narration that makes telling stories much more personal and captivating. Users can easily record their voice by calling a toll-free number and telling the story behind the pictures in their own voice.

myfamily.com 2.0 free sites will be supported by advertising and commerce. Paid member sites will also be available for members who prefer an ad-free environment. Details of the subscription service have not been announced.

#### About myfamily.com 2.0

Since 1998, myfamily.com has been the best place on the web to connect and share with the most important people in your life in a private, secure environment designed specifically for the family. Myfamily.com 2.0 beta is part of The Generations Network, Inc., a leading network of family-focused interactive properties connecting families across distance and time, including Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com, Genealogy.com and Family Tree Maker. In total, The Generations Network properties receive 10.4 million unique visitors worldwide and over 450 million page views a month ((C) comScore Media Metrix, March 2007).

This article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

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## **The International Society of Genetic Genealogy Upcoming Meetings and Seminars**

[www.isogg.org/](http://www.isogg.org/)

**Boerne, Texas**

January 26, 2008

**"Trace Your Roots With DNA",  
"Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options"  
and more!**

Speaker: Megan Smolenyak-Smolenyak  
Boerne Convention and Community Center  
820 Adler Road  
Boerne, Texas

**Visit site for info**

Info/registration: [www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/)

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**Topeka, Kansas**

April 26, 2008

**"Trace Your Roots With DNA",  
"Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options"  
and more!**

Speaker: Megan Smolenyak-Smolenyak

Topeka Genealogical Society

Kansas History Museum at the Kansas State Historical Society

6425 SW 6th Street

Topeka, Kansas

Info/registration: [tgstopeka.org](http://tgstopeka.org)

Meetings subject to change

Page last updated:

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## THE 2008 NGS AWARDS PROGRAM

It is time to nominate the work of an organization or an individual for the 2008 NGS Awards. The deadlines are fast approaching! December 31, 2007 is the deadline for the Newsletter competition. Nominations for all other competitions and awards are due January 31, 2008.

**NGS NEWSLETTER COMPETITION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2007!**

Does your genealogical or historical society produce an outstanding newsletter? Is it impressive and informative? Are they a society member of NGS? If the answers are all yes, it is time for your society to nominate their newsletter for the NGS Newsletter competition!

The Deadline for a society or organization to nominate a quality newsletter for the NGS Newsletter Competition is December 31, 2007, so don't delay, get busy now and submit the nomination.

There are three levels of competition: (1) Major Genealogical Society newsletter; (2) Local or county genealogical/historical society newsletter; and (3) Family Association newsletter.

First place and runner up awards are given in each category. Check out the 2007 winners outstanding publications! The Major Genealogical Society newsletter winner was *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, a publication of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa and runner-up was the *OGS Genealogy News* published by the Ohio Genealogical Society. The Local Genealogical Society newsletter winner was *The Tracer* of the Hamilton County [Ohio] Genealogical Society and runner up was *The Heritage of the Gwinnett [Georgia] Historical Society*. The Family Association Newsletter winner was *Stepping Stones: Chronicles of the Scholderer Family Lineage* and runner up was the *Seeley Genealogical Society*.

To qualify, the nominating society or family association must be an NGS organization member and must submit three copies of two consecutive issues from the current year along with a completed entry form. Check the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/compsnewsmag.cfm> for details and entry forms.

The newsletters will be judged on interest, variety, originality of material, quality of the writing and editing, attractiveness and readability of the pages, and the overall makeup of the newsletter.

The organization sponsoring the winning newsletter will receive a certificate, a one year membership to NGS, and a feature in the *NGS NewsMagazine*. The runner up will receive a certificate and a feature in the *NGS NewsMagazine*. Winners will be announced at the Opening Session of the NGS Conference in the State in Kansas City 14 May 2008.

Remember the deadline is December 31, 2007!

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Scanning Old Photographs

by Kay Spears

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 45, November 30, 2007

Do you have some old photographs you want to scan, but you're not sure what format to use when saving them? Well, here's the definitive answer: it depends. Yes, what format you choose for saving images depends on how you intend to use them once they are scanned. Here are some general guidelines.

1. If the image is to be used for the Web/online, use JPEG, PNG or GIF. If the image is to be printed or used in a print publication, use TIFF.
2. JPEG should be used when you need to keep the file size small and don't mind giving up quality for a significant reduction in size. JPEGs are optimal for posting and transferring photos online. JPEGs aren't suitable for images with text because crisp lines will blur. If you plan on doing any kind of restoration work on your photograph, JPEGs are not the format to use.
3. PNG is ideal when you need smaller file sizes with no loss in quality. PNG supports alpha transparency (soft edges). PNG files offer greater compression and a much wider range of color depth than GIFs. However, not all web browsers support PNGs.
4. GIF is a good choice for simple Web graphics with limited colors. GIF should rarely be used for photos.
5. TIFF is good for any type of bitmap image. If you want to archive your family photographs, this is the format to use. This is also the format to use if you are planning on doing restoration work. Unlike JPEGs, TIFFs do not lose any compression when edited and resaved. I recommend that you scan your family photos as TIFFs; you can always reduce them to JPEGs for sending through emails or putting online. Always keep the original TIFF saved in a separate file. The downside: TIFF files are extremely large and take up a lot of storage space. However, the cost of disk storage continues to plummet while options continue to increase.
6. BMP may be used for any type of pixel-based image. BMPs are huge files, but there is no loss of quality. BMP has no real benefit over TIFF, except you can use it for Windows wallpaper.

A final tip: for sharing a photo via the Web or email, scan at 75 or 100 dpi. A standard computer monitor is only 72 to 96 dpi, so it's not necessary for anything larger. For printing, scan at 300 dpi. Printers have higher resolution than monitors. If you're planning on enlarging an image, the general rule of thumb is double the resolution when doubling the size.

Preservation Tip of the Month by Becky Schipper

This tip was sent to me from Russell Jones, a Genealogy Gems subscriber who attended one of my presentations during the FGS conference in August. The June 2007 issue of Consumer Reports contains an interesting article beginning on page 26 concerning the transferring of LP's, tapes, photos, and home movies to CD & DVD formats. The article, entitled "Go Digital," and several side-bars cover four pages and provide clear steps and specific equipment needed for transfer. It is easily read and gives one practical tips and cautions.

Desmond's Research Tips:

Valuable Resource on Early Arkansas Available on CD

Abstracts of Arkansas Reports, January 1837 through January 1861 by Joan Thurman Taunton

Submitted by Desmond Walls Allen

In 1988, Arkansas Genealogical Society published *Abstracts of Arkansas Reports, January 1837 through January 1861* by Joan Thurman Taunton. These abstracts are from our earliest state Supreme Court decisions found in the multi-volume series, *Arkansas Reports*. Copies of these old legal volumes are found in our Arkansas Supreme Court Library in Little Rock, as well as in law and university libraries around the state. Some commercial, subscription web sites also offer access to these volumes.

But the cases mentioned aren't indexed for genealogists; they're only searchable by legal topic and by the names in the heading of the case. Joan's abstracts, on the other hand, were done for us!

The pages of this book contain summaries of old Arkansas Supreme Court cases. Who did our ancestors sue? Why family members and neighbors, of course. Which is why the cases are so interesting to us.

Here's an example from Joan's book. I use it sometimes in my classes to illustrate how valuable this material can be. (I've fluffed out some of

the abbreviations to make it read a bit more clearly.)

7 - Ark. 241. CARR Vs. CRAIN ET AL. Perry Co. Circuit.

JOHN TUCKER died in Nov. 1832 (his will was probated 26 Nov. 1832 in Conway Co.). He devised \$1 to his lawful wife HAPPY TRANCE (maiden name). He devised \$1 each to his lawful children by HAPPY TRANCE TUCKER, to-wit: dau. ELIZABETH LUCAS; heirs of deceased daughter SALLY MADLOCK; & heirs of dec'd. son LARRY TUCKER.

Following slaves were devised to TUCKER'S companion FANNY SMITH: LOUIS age 30-40; DIANA age 31; & MARIA age 12. TUCKER devised to his children by FANNY SMITH as follows: Negro JULIA age 3 to dau. MARTHA CRAIN wife of HARRIS CRAIN; tract of land in Conway Co. & Negro WILLIAM age about 9 to son JAMES TUCKER; remaining tract in Conway Co. & Negro JACKSON age about 7 to son WILLIAM TUCKER; Negro WESLEY age about 5 to son ALFRED TUCKER & also land ALFRED now lives on in Pope Co.; Negro MINERVA age about 2 to dau. MELISSA TITSWORTH; Negro RICHARD age about 12 & land in Pope Co. to son JEFFERSON TUCKER; Negro NANCY age about 2 to dau. FANNY TUCKER.

Since the last will of TUCKER his dau. MELISSA TITSWORTH married JAMES CAMPBELL. His dau. FANNY married RICHARD H. BURTRAM. TUCKER's companion FANNY SMITH married JAMES CARR. FANNY SMITH CARR died intestate (without a will) about 12 Feb. 1841. Ch. of JOHN TUCKER & FANNY SMITH CARR sued JAMES CARR for Negro MARIA & her children JACK & WINNEY who were born after TUCKER'S death. Case Affirmed.

Okay, genealogists, what do you see? Anyone notice the burned counties, Conway and Perry? We don't have the early records for these counties (among others) and this abstract helps supply some of the missing county records.

How many family group sheets do you see? Two for Mr. Tucker; one for his legitimate family, one for the family created on the other side of the sheets (different kind of sheets than family-group-sheet); and one for the African American slave family. The title of the case is Carr versus Crain, but who's it really about? Why, colorful Mr. Tucker, of course.

If you have folks in Antebellum Arkansas, this is one source you must examine. The book went out of print several years ago. It's only been available on microfiche in recent years, but now, here it is on CD. Can it get any better? I ran optical character recognition software on the book, so you can search it from within Adobe Reader for any text you can imagine.

This one is only available by mail right now. The price is \$12.50 plus \$2.50 shipping (and Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax to the entire total).

Order from AGS, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222.

Arkansas Family Historian:

December Issue, Table of Contents Susan Boyle, Editor

- "Descendants of Reuben Searcy and Isabella McDonald"
- "Genealogical Resources at the Historical Research Center, UAMS Library, Part I: Physicians"
- "Three Lee Sisters of Johnson County, Arkansas"
- "1867 Voter Registration, Columbia County, Arkansas: Part 2"
- "Randolph County Delinquent Tax List"
- Arkansas Ancestry Certificates through John W. Staggs and Alvin Hash
- Book Review: *Ancestral Trails, The Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History, 2nd ed.*

Events:

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Events

December 2007

The Butler Center's Legacies and Lunch series are held the first Wednesday of each month. Bring your own lunch if you wish; drinks are provided. The programs are free and open to the public. Location: Little Rock Public Library, 100 Rock, Little Rock, in the Darragh Center. The Legacies and Lunch programs are the first Wednesday of each month.

5 December 2007

Legacies & Lunch – The Central Arkansas Library System – 10 Years in the River Market District

December 5 - noon to 1 pm

Darragh Center–Main Library (100 Rock St., Little Rock)

Call 501-918-3049 for more information

For information on Butler Center events, contact
Anna Morshedi at The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
501-918-3049 or amorshedi@cals.lib.ar.us

UALR's Evenings with History Series

From:

<http://ualr.edu/news/index.php/2007/09/12/university-history-institute-sets-evenings-with-history-series/>

UALR history professors will offer scholarly insights on historical subjects this season in six nationally recognized *Evenings with History* lectures, featuring topics that range from Marie Antoinette's jewels to the "first" war on terror in the 1970s.

The University History Institute, established in 1987, is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging interest in historical scholarship and to developing community support for [UALR's Department of History](#).

The institute sponsors the annual *Evenings with History* series of talks, the proceeds of which are used to purchase research materials for the UALR [Ottenheimer Library](#), as well as other public lectures and events.

History buffs can subscribe to the series for a \$50 individual membership or \$90 for a subscription for two. Life memberships and corporate memberships are also available.

All lectures this year will be held at the Ottenheimer Auditorium in the [Historic Arkansas Museum](#) at 200 E. Third St. in Little Rock. Each lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. following a 7 p.m. fellowship and refreshments reception.

Other lectures are:

- Kristin Dutcher Mann lectures on "Pascuas de Navidad: Christmas Celebrations in Northern New Spain," when Christian feast days blended with indigenous celebrations, on Dec. 4.
- Tom Kaiser presents, "Diamonds Are a Queen's Best Friend," Marie-Antoinette and the Diamond Necklace Affair," one of the greatest jewel heists of the 18th century, on Feb. 12.
- Clea Bunch, "The First War on Terror: Black September 1970," discusses the relationship between the United States and Jordan during the domestic conflict with Palestinians in Jordan that challenged King Hussein's sovereignty, on March 4.

- Bill Wiggins utilizes his vast collection of contemporary Indian art to illustrate, "Cross Cultural Influences in Contemporary Native American Art: We Did Not Disappear. We Just Became Invisible," on April 1.

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Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2008

For general information about FGS and its goals and activities, see www.fgs.org/. For information about next year's conference, see www.fgs.org/2008conference/index.php. The 2008 conference will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 3–6, 2008.

But the really big news (for us) is that it was officially announced that **the FGS Conference for 2009 will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas!** There is no information other than the dates at the official web site, but keep an eye on www.fgs.org/2009conference/index.php

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Submitted by
Russell P. Baker
Arkansas History Commission

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, set up by the Arkansas General Assembly to help Arkansas celebrate the upcoming 150 anniversary of the Civil War, 2011—2015, had its first official meeting on September 18, 2007 in Little Rock.

I attended as an observer from the Arkansas Genealogical Society. The commission adopted a mission statement and set **December 2, 2007** at the date of the next meeting. The Commission hopes to have the widest possible participation by all Arkansans.

However, the Legislature appropriated no funds for the Commission's activities. It is hoped that in the next session in 2009 this will be remedied and there will be funds available for grants to local and state wide groups to publish books, hold reenactments, have museum displays, community discussions, etc.

The public is always welcome at the meetings. For more information on the mission statement or the Commission contact, Mark Christ, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at mark@arkansasheritage.org.



Book Notices:

If you or your organization has a book or books available, send us the information, and we'll let all our readers know about it in this column. CEB

New Books from Arkansas Research

We heard you! You want books in electronic format. They're cheaper, more convenient, easier to store, and they save trees. Here are some of the new materials now available on CD:

Oscar Russell's books, *Indexes of Death Notices Appearing in the Arkansas Gazette, 1914–1929, 1960, 1990–2005* are available on CD for \$9.95 per year. And my new addition to the series, the volume for **1913**, is available in print and on CD. See more at <http://www.arkansasresearch.com/desoscar.html>.

I'm working away on the 1912 volume...

Those well-worn **Goodspeed histories** are selling well on CD. We're offering them individually or all eight Arkansas volumes on one CD for \$39.95. Details are here: <http://www.arkansasresearch.com/desgood.html>

Fay Hempstead's *Historical Review of Arkansas*, a three-volume set is on CD for \$19.95: <http://www.arkansasresearch.com/deshistrev.html>

And **Turnbo's *Tales of the Ozarks***, a nine-volume series of folk tales is on CD for \$39.95:

<http://www.arkansasresearch.com/Desfolk.htm>

Postage is extra, of course. There's an order form on the website, or PayPal buttons.

Desmond Walls Allen
Arkansas Research, Inc.
PO Box 303, Conway, AR 72033
501/470-1120 voice and fax
www.ArkansasResearch.com

AGS Publications:

Announcing Latest Publications Arkansas Genealogical Society

Cemetery Inscriptions Published in Thirty Years of the Arkansas Family Historian

AGS published *Cemetery Inscriptions Published in Thirty Years of the Arkansas Family Historian*, by Lewis E. Roberts in 1992.

The book has now been republished on searchable CD and is available from AGS, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222, for \$12.50 plus \$2.50 shipping (and Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax).

Abstracts of Arkansas Reports, January 1837 through January 1861 by Joan Thurman Taunton

Now on CD with searchable text. The price is \$12.50 plus \$2.50 shipping (and Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax to the entire total).

Order from AGS, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222.

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ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX, VOLUME 5

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has just published the *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volume 4*. This volume continues the indexing of the births in Arkansas before February 1, 1914. These original records have never been published, since the Vital Records office did not have an accurate index. Volunteers from AGS indexed the data for the Vital Records office and are allowed to publish all birth certificates that are 100 years old. This volume sells for \$75.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping. Tax must be added for Arkansas residents.

This CD is the combination of the Volumes 1–5. It sells \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping. It is searchable by the birth name, mother's maiden name, county, and date. This CD is great for your personal library. Tax must be added for Arkansas residents.

Shipping & Handling Added before tax

Under \$20.00	\$2.50
\$21.00-\$49.99	\$7.00
\$50.00-\$125.99	\$12.50
\$126.00 and up	10% of order

To order these publications send a check or money order to:
Arkansas Genealogical Society
POB 17653
Little Rock, AR 72222

Or print order form at www.agsgenealogy.org

Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax.

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For complete list of Arkansas Genealogical Society publications,
go to www.agsgenealogy.org/publications.htm

ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX, VOLUME 4

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has just published the *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volume 4*. This volume continues the indexing of the births in Arkansas before 1 February 1914. These original records have never been published, since the Vital Records office did not have an accurate index. Volunteers from AGS indexed the data for the Vital Records office and are allowed to publish all birth certificates that are 100 years old. This volume sells for \$60.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX CD, VOLUME 1- 4

If you'd rather have the complete set of Prior Birth Indexes on CD, the price is right-much cheaper than buying the printed volumes. This CD is the combination of Volumes 1 through 4. It sells for only \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping. It is searchable by the birth name, mother's maiden name, county, and date. This CD is great for your personal library.

ARKANSAS TOWNSHIP ATLAS Revised With Improved Maps

Arkansas Township Atlas, 1819-1930 sells for \$25.00 plus \$6.00 shipping was written by Russell P. Baker. It is an index of the civil divisions in the 75 counties in Arkansas. There are newly improved maps to show the location of the townships within each county and regional maps of the entire state. The counties are listed alphabetically with the origin of each township and date of change when they moved within the state. This is a valuable book to the researcher in finding the location and the origin of the township. It is well indexed and easy to use with the revised information.

Another Revised Edition of an essential book:

Arkansas Post Offices: From Memdag to Norsk, A Historical Directory, 1832-1990 sells for \$25.00 plus \$6.00 for shipping. It is an index of all the post offices in Arkansas during that time period. It lists the date the post office closed and the land description if known. Some are named for the postmasters and other interesting facts. This is a helpful book in locating post offices from the census records by listing the county in which they were located and the relocation. It was written and donated to AGS by Russell P. Baker.

Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax.
To order these and other AGS publications, send a check or money order to:

Arkansas Genealogical Society
POB 17653
Little Rock, AR 72222

Or print order form at www.agsgenealogy.org

Queries:

Editor's note: Please be specific about time period and county of the people you're researching. The more exact the information you give, the more likely someone can help you.

~ ~ ~

Peter P. Thomas b. 1844, Missouri, married Martha J. Urcery, b. 1848, Arkansas, on 2 January 1865, in Glaize Township., Jackson County, Arkansas. I have copy of this record from Jackson County, Newport, Ark.

Peter was a Confederate soldier, who was captured at DuValls Bluff, Arkansas, in the spring of 1865. I have copy of Confederate soldier's record, when he applied for some kind of a pension. I am assuming that he must have met Martha during this period of his capture.

I cannot find any records concerning Martha's father or mother. There seems to be lots of Urcery's in Arkansas, but none that match her date of birth.

In the 1870 census Marion Township, Sebastian County, Arkansas, I found Peter, wife (Nancy) and 4 children. Later in 1872 my grandfather, Holly C. Thomas was born, also in Arkansas.

By 1875 Peter married Elizabeth Mason in St. Louis Missouri. I have copy of this marriage certificate.

What I really want is to find the parents of Martha J. Urcery!

**Any help would be much appreciated. Thanks so much.
Marylyn Hagemann, florida4804@msn.com**

* * *

Send your query in now! Or send in a question or comments about Arkansas history, genealogy, research, your own research problem, or any other topic. We'll find a qualified person to answer your question and print it here.

Arkansas Links:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page
www.agsgenealogy.org

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Mark Christ
mark@arkansasheritage.org

Arkansas State Highway Department
County and State Highway maps for sale
www.arkansashighways.com

Arkansas Historical Association
www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/

Arkansas Historical Quarterly Index, 1942–2000
arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/

Arkansas History Commission (the state archives):
www.ark-ives.com/

Arkansas Research, Inc.
www.ArkansasResearch.com

Arkansas Ties
www.ArkansasTies.com

Baxter County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society:
www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/

Baxter County Bulletin (newspaper online)
www.baxterbulletin.com

Benton County, Arkansas, GenWeb:
www.rootsweb.com/~arbenton/

Bentonville Public Library, Benton, County, Arkansas:
www.youseemore.com/bentonville/

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies:
www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/

Conway County Genealogical Society:
www.rootsweb.com/~arconway/ccga.htm

Craighead County Arkansas Genealogy Society (GSCCA)
<http://gscga.net>

Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture:
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

ePodunk.com: Search for any city or town in the US
www.epodunk.com/

Federation of Genealogical Societies
2009 Conference in Little Rock
www.fgs.org

Heritage Books
www.HeritageBooks.com

Little River County Genealogical Society:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlrccgs>

National Register of Historic Sites, Arkansas:
www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html

Newton County Historical Society:
www.newtoncountyar.com

Perry County, Arkansas; Rootweb site
www.rootsweb.com/~arperry/

Prairie County, Arkansas, Genealogical Homepage:
www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/prairie/

Prairie County, Arkansas, Rootsweb:
www.rootsweb.com/~arprairi/

Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies:
www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/

Russellville, Pope County, Arkansas, Newspaper: The Courier
www.couriernews.com/

Saline County, Arkansas, Genealogy Page:
www.rootsweb.com/~arsaline/

Saline County History and Heritage Society, Inc.
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arschhs/>

Saline County, Arkansas, Library:
www.saline.lib.ar.us/

Saline County Library, David O. Demuth Arkansas Room
Steve Perdue, Curator,
sperdue@saline.lib.ar.us

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives:
www.southwestarchives.com/

Texarkana USA Genealogical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~txkusa/GenSoc.html

Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Lee, Monroe and Phillips, in Eastern Arkansas):
www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/tricou/society.htm

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