



# AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 14 No. 2 February 2019

Jane A. Wilkerson, editor  
Brandon Ryan, list manager

## Coming Events

### February 9, 2019

Independence County Library,  
*Arkansas African American Legacy*,  
Tatyana Oyinloye, Arkansas State  
Archives, 10:00 a.m., 2nd floor  
meeting room, 267 East Main  
Street, Batesville.

### February 17, 2019

Genealogy Society of Craighead,  
General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round  
Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak  
Avenue, Jonesboro.

### February 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club,  
*Moving Wilder (Georgia Settlement)  
Cemetery*, speaker Joe  
Clements, Heritage Seekers, 6:30  
p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyteri-  
an Church, 600 Pleasant Valley  
Drive, Little Rock.

### March 1-2, 2019

Northeast Arkansas Regional Ar-  
chives and Arkansas State Parks,  
Territorial Fair, Davidsonville His-  
toric State Park, Friday, March 1, 9  
a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday,  
March 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### March 17, 2019

Genealogy Society of Craighead,  
General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round  
Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak  
Avenue, Jonesboro.

### March 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club,  
*The "Lost Year" Little Rock Central  
High Crises*, speaker Sondra  
Gordy, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Sec-  
ond Presbyterian Church, 600  
Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

### April 16, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to  
Podium: Arkansas Historical Writ-  
ers' Lecture Series: 8 years of Un-  
forgettable History: the Allure of*

## AGS Director Richard Butler Receives Preservation Medal

by Glenn Mosenthin

Richard C. Butler, Jr., was the recipient of the National Historic Preservation Medal, awarded by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and was recognized at a ceremony on January 24, 2019 at the Fletcher Branch Library in Little Rock. The presentation was hosted by the Arkansas State Society DAR, together with the Gilbert Marshall Chapter. State Regent Junelle Mongno and Honorary State Regent Jerrie Townsend presented the medal.

Cindy Segraves Phillips, National Historic Preservation Chair states, "The Historic Preservation Medal is the most prestigious preservation award the DAR presents to individuals who have done extraordinary volunteer work in historic preservation over a long period of time." Phillips continues, "The generous gifts of his time and expertise to his community are impressive. Because of Butler's efforts, the history that has been preserved and documented will be shared with many future generations."



Photo: DAR State Regent Junelle Mongno (left), and Honorary DAR State Regent Jerrie Townsend present the organization's National Historic Preservation Medal to Mr. Butler.

Over the course of forty years, Mr. Butler served and continues to serve numerous organizations and boards devoted to the preservation of Arkansas history. From his first visit to Washington, Arkansas with his father at the age of ten, Mr. Butler has long supported the efforts to preserve and restore the area's historic structures. Recognizing Mr. Butler's commitment to the community of Washington, Arkansas, former Governor Frank White appointed him to the State Historic Preservation Board.

In addition to his work to preserve Washington, Arkansas (now Historic Washington State Park), Mr. Butler restored the first Hotze house on 17th and Main Streets in Little Rock, where he resided for a number of years, and in approximately 2005, began work to restore the historic Palmer House in Blackton, Monroe County, Arkansas.

Mr. Butler is active in the Quapaw Quarter Association, the Mt. Holly Cemetery Association, the Pulaski County Historical Society, the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, Arkansas Pioneers Association, Arkansas Historical Association, Arkansas Genealogical Society, Heritage Seekers, Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery Association, and serves numerous other organizations and boards.

## Coming Events

*America's First*, Speaker Phyllis Hodges, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North St., Little Rock.

### April 21, 2019

Genealogy Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

### April 22, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Think Outside the "DNA Box"*, speaker Mike Engel, Genetic Genealogist, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

### May 4, 2019

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Genealogical Symposium.

### May 9-11, 2019

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, *Journey of Discovery*, St. Charles, Missouri.

### May 19, 2019

Genealogy Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

### May 20, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Camp Nelson Cemetery Restoration*, speaker R.D. Keever, Camp Nelson, 6:30 p.m., Hillary Clinton Children's Library, 4800 W. 10th, Little Rock.

### June 1, 2019

Black History Commission of Arkansas Event.

### June 23, 2019

Genealogy Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

### June 24, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Questions at the Desk*, speaker Rhonda Stewart, Butler Center, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

## Craighead County Area and Jonesboro Offer Genealogy Highlights

by Jeanne Rollberg



Nathan Whitmire at the library.

The Genealogy Society of Craighead County will offer once again a Genealogy Night Lock-In at the Jonesboro Public Library on Saturday, March 2, from 6-10 p.m. (For more information, please refer to <http://www.gscga.net/2019-Feb.htm>)

The event was delayed from February because of library construction. A previous successful lock-in last year attracted 130 researchers who were assisted by 13 staff members, according to

The GSCCA has long had an active genealogy society and produces a newsletter called the *Brickwall Gazette*. It has a close association with the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA), a branch of the Arkansas State Archives at Powhatan, as well as the public library and Arkansas State.

The Society offers beginner genealogy classes and monthly meetings in addition to special events like the lock-ins. Part of the mission statement says: "We endeavor to give our members the skills and knowledge to research ancestors from Craighead County, Arkansas and throughout the world." The president of the organization is Gail Lies, and newsletter editor Nancy

Matthews may be contacted at [nmatthews@suddenlink.net](mailto:nmatthews@suddenlink.net).

### Ancestor Research, Exploration, and Education

For those researching ancestors' genealogy in Jonesboro, in addition to using the research facilities mentioned, the ASU Museum encompasses photographs, archives, and a research library

According to its web site, "The library holds over 3,000 historic books used in Northeast Arkansas or related to the Museum's collections, featuring several first editions of missionary and

pioneer memoirs. An additional 4,000 modern books support research of the



## Coming Events

**July 20, 2019**

Genealogy Society of Craighead, Genealogy Lock-In, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**July 21, 2019**

Genealogy Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

**July 22, 2019**

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Preserving Your Family Heirlooms*, speaker Julienne Crawford, Arkansas State Archives, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

**August 3, 2019**

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives Event

**August 18, 2019**

Genealogy Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

**August 20, 2019**

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series*, Speaker Mark Christ.

**August 21-24, 2019**

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Washington, D. C.

**August 24, 2019**

Obion County Library Genealogical Seminar, 9 a.m. Obion County Tennessee Library.

**August 26, 2019**

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Finding Identity with Genealogy in Arkansas*, speaker Jeanne Rollberg, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

**September 14, 2019**

Arkansas State Archives Foodways Event.

**September 23, 2019**

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *As Much as the Water-How Steamboats Shaped Arkansas*, speaker



The museum web site page, <https://www.astate.edu/a/museum/things-to-do/index.dot>, features a section on genealogy. It says, in part: "The lion's share of the Museum's holdings are donations from families in Northeast Arkansas who felt a sense of kinship with this region's past and a desire to preserve and share their history with future generations. Thus, ASU Museum came into being by accepting stewardship of vintage wedding gowns and quilts, tools, farm implements, intriguing gadgets, dolls, furniture, family photographs, a covered wagon and a canoe, mother-of-pearl buttons and button-making tools—even a complete dentist office and other shops from the turn of the 19th century!"



For those who prefer to wed heritage tourism to their genealogy travel and research near Jonesboro, remember that you can see Sen. Hattie Caraway's grave site at Oaklawn Cemetery on the west side of Jonesboro, and that there are many nearby heritage sites listed here: <http://arkansasheritagesites.astate.edu/links/>

Jonesboro and the Craighead County area have active genealogy societies, good nearby research facilities, and heritage tourism to provide context to

genealogy discovery for those with ancestors and history in the area. Arkansas State University also features a Department of Heritage Studies and heritage studies degrees.

## Coming Events

Kay Lundgren, 6:30 p.m., Room 66,  
Second Presbyterian Church, 600  
Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

### October 24-26, 2019

RootsTech Conference will be held  
in London, England. For more  
information go to [https://  
www.rootstech.org/London?cid=bl-  
fsup-8055](https://www.rootstech.org/London?cid=bl-fsup-8055)

### October 28, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club,  
*Publishing & Enjoying Your Genealogy Work*, speaker Hank Klein,  
6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Pres-  
byterian Church, 600 Pleasant  
Valley Drive, Little Rock.

### September 2-5, 2020

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and  
Family History Conference will be  
held in Kansas City, Missouri.

### New Cemetery Book

**Thomas Cemetery: North  
Little Rock, Pulaski County,  
Arkansas Interments, Obitu-  
aries and Articles**

**\$25.00 plus \$3.50 extra for  
shipping. All money will be  
used to restore and preserve  
Thomas Cemetery.** To purchase  
contact Teresa Clark  
at [taclark12@comcast.net](mailto:taclark12@comcast.net).

# Grand Prairie Historical Society

by Glenn Mosenthin

The Grand Prairie Historical Society (GPHS) was founded in 1953 by a group of public-spirited persons from around Arkansas County, whose aim was to preserve the area's rich history and make others aware of this heritage. GPHS adopted a constitution stating the Society's purpose as promoting the heritage and historical records of the Grand Prairie, marking historical sites, encouraging tours and informing the public of the organization's work. More than 1700 people have been members over the group's existence. Publication of the Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin, one of Arkansas's oldest such journals, has played a major role in achieving the organization's objectives. Many genealogy articles have been published, including those of the earliest European families of Arkansas Post's Colonial era. The Historical Bulletin has received sixteen awards from the Arkansas Historical Association for articles and overall presentation.

GPHS holds quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October. They are held throughout the region in diverse venues such as churches, schools, libraries, community centers, hunting lodges, museums, and other historical sites, with new places scheduled each year. Meetings feature interesting programs given by knowledgeable speakers on topics of area interest. GPHS has participated in countless heritage preservation events over its history. The group has hosted the Arkansas Historical Association's annual conference on three occasions, and has seen three of its members, Rev. Lawrence Maus, Dr. Harold V. Glenn, and Boyd Johnson become president of the statewide organization.

Society members were instrumental in the elevation of the original Arkansas Post State Park to National Memorial status in 1960, and in the founding of Arkansas Post County Museum (the current Arkansas Post Museum State Park) in the same year. The group conducted Civil War centennial observances in the 1960s at Arkansas Post and St. Charles, and in 2011 placed a sesquicentennial plaque commemorating the Battle of Arkansas Post. Over the years, other markers have been placed at locations of historical significance around the region. The organization led several U. S. bicentennial observances in Arkansas County in 1976, played a large role in the Arkansas County bicentennial celebration in 2013, as well as the Battle of Arkansas Post sesquicentennial in the same year. GPHS has sponsored the microfilming of old county records, and members have cleaned and stored newly-found county documents.

The organization is active in an ongoing effort to preserve the oldest and most fragile Arkansas County record books, which number among the earliest existing county records west of the Mississippi River. Two publications of genealogical interest have been published by GPHS: Arkansas Colonials, a trove of civil records from Arkansas Post in the French and Spanish periods; and Catholic Register of Arkansas, an abstract of baptisms, marriages, and burials by Catholic priests in the Parish of Arkansas, including the only records kept during the Spanish era. The Grand Prairie Historical Society maintains a website at [GrandPrairieHistory.org](http://GrandPrairieHistory.org); and a Facebook page at [Facebook.com/GrandPrairieHistory](https://Facebook.com/GrandPrairieHistory). Current President is Dyan Bohnert, 870-382-2017. The Society's address is P.O. Box 15, Almyra, AR 72003.

### **The Arkansas State Archives is interested in you!**

The Arkansas State Archives and Friends of the Arkansas State Archives are looking for eager individuals to help index county and state records. Work is done sitting down, alongside staff members, with gloves and masks provided. It takes place on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to noon in a conference room at the Collections Management Facility on North Street in Little Rock where parking is more easily available than at the Archives. Come and join the fun.

### **NEARA Seeks Volunteers**

The Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives is seeking individuals to participate in Volunteer Day at the archives. Currently, volunteers are unfolding and processing court case files from the Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County Court Records Collection. The goal is to have those cases searchable in our database within the next year. Come and join the fun. For more information about volunteering, contact NEARA at [north-east.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:north-east.archives@arkansas.gov) or 870-878-6521.

### **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To [agscontributions@gmail.com](mailto:agscontributions@gmail.com) — Thanks!

**AGS:** To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

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