

The Arkansas Genealogical Society E-zine

Volume 1, Number 2 (September 2006)

Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley and Lynda Childers Suffridge

Don't forget to register for the

AGS Fall Seminar October 20-21, 2006

See complete information below (under "Events")

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## Introduction:

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sending you this E-zine (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.

This E-zine is a supplement to, not a replacement of, the quarterly publication, the *Arkansas Family Historian* or to the *AGS Newsletter*.

Please let us know if you like this new membership benefit 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.

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New AGS Publications:

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.

Not new, but still essential for researching in Arkansas—

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

News about Arkansas Genealogy:

More Monroe County, Hot Spring County, and Prairie County Records Available Soon at the Arkansas History Commission

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock in cooperation with the Genealogical Society of Utah announce the completion of the microfilming of records for Monroe County. Including in this recent filming, at the Monroe County courthouse in Clarendon, are marriage records dating from 1922–1951, Chancery Court records dating from 1890–1928, deed records dating from 1886–1901, and Tax Deeds from 1885–1905. Eventually, this microfilm will be added to the Monroe County records already in the History Commission's collection.

The same agencies also announce the completion of the microfilming of deed records dating 1887–1902, from Hot Spring County in central Arkansas. This microfilm will be added to the Hot Spring County records already in the History Commission's collection. Camera operators will soon be filming in Jackson County.

Also completed is the microfilming of historic Prairie County records at the courthouses in Des Arc and DeValls Bluff. At the courthouse in Des Arc, marriage records dating from 1924–1954, Chancery Court records from

1876–1929, and deed records dating from 1887–1904 were microfilmed. At the courthouse in DeValls Bluff, marriage records dating from 1924–1962, Chancery Court records from 1886–1933, and deed records from 1886–1902 were microfilmed. This material will soon be added to the early Prairie County marriage, deed, probate, circuit court, and tax records already in the History Commission's collection. Camera operators are now filming in Monroe County.

The filming is part of a microfilming project began in 1976 that has copied early county records from all courthouses in Arkansas. Projects like this preserve historical material by reproducing the records on 35mm microfilm. It also makes the information more accessible by placing the film at additional locations such as the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The film will eventually be available through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on interlibrary loan.

For additional information on the History Commission's collections, visit its website at:

www.ark-ives.com or call 501-682-6900.
Arkansas History Commission
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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Area building may receive historical designation

JOANNE BRATTON Bulletin Staff Writer

(reproduced with permission of JoAnne Bratton; jobratton@baxterbulletin.com)

GASSVILLE — One of the oldest buildings in Gassville might be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, according to a state preservation agency.

The Rollins Hospital at 107 E. Main St. has significant historical value because the building housed an early hospital and health care facility, according to a letter from the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

The Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society is working to put the building, which now houses the Baxter County Heritage Museum, on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's very encouraging," said Maryanne Edge, president of the Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society. "We want to save our building."

The historical society is compiling more history about the building and the life of Dr. W.J. Rollins to send to the agency, which will determine if the facility is eligible for the designation.

In the early 1920s, Rollins came to Gassville after graduating from medical school. He began his medical practice after renting space in the General Store, which became the Rollins Hospital in 1926, according to the historical

society. When he began his medical practice, he had an office, examining room and two patient rooms.

Rollins hired a surgeon from Chicago, Dr. John Guenther, and the hospital's name was changed to Baxter County Community Hospital. The hospital continued to operate until the last owner died May 21, 1954, said museum curator Jane Anderson.

If the property is listed on the register of historic places, the building could qualify for grants that would help fund repairs.

"Right now we do not have money to make repairs," Edge said. "It would mean saving that building."

Possible grant money also would allow the historical society to refurbish six rooms in the building that currently are not open to the public, she said.

Charles Blackburn, a businessman and historical preservationist, was the driving force behind the hospital's transformation into a museum. Blackburn, who died in 2000 before the museum was established, also had been president of the historical society.

"This was Charlie Blackbird's dream," Edge said. "It's important to save history. Too much of Mountain Home is being torn down. If we don't save history, we will not know anything about the past."

Gassville city officials expressed support of the project when the historical society presented their plans Tuesday during a council meeting.

"It adds a lot of history to Gassville," said Alderman Jeff Lewis.

Among its various collections, the museum offers exhibits, genealogy, photographs and historical records.

The state review process takes a minimum of 90 days after a nomination form is completed. A decision of whether to list the property on the register is made by the National Park Service within 45 days of receiving the application, according to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Baxter County Heritage Museum is open noon-4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

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## **Desmond Walls Allen to teach two classes at the University of Central Arkansas**

"Researching Your Family History" is designed to help you identify, locate, and understand basic reference materials used by genealogists to track down those elusive ancestors. We pay special attention to looking at the communities of kinship that surround families and emphasize historical context. We'll examine documents in various record categories and develop a knack for listening to, rather than just reading, old records.

Class meets Wednesdays, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25. Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$85. Age 60+ 20% discount.

"Leave a Legacy: Write Your Life Story" will encourage you to get your story on paper and perhaps into print, whether it's just for personal satisfaction or intended for a wider audience. We'll turn memories into memoirs. We'll write character sketches of some of the memorable people in your life. Don't leave this planet without telling your story and leaving your thoughts for future generations.

Class meets Tuesdays, Oct. 17, 24, 31, and Nov. 7. Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$65. Age 60+ 20% discount.

Desmond Walls Allen has taught genealogy classes all over the United States, and brings 20 years of teaching experience to the classroom. She appeared in Public Television's Ancestor series as a guest expert, and moderated AETN's special on genealogy in Arkansas. She's the owner of Arkansas Research, Inc., a publishing company devoted to making historical information about Arkansas available to researchers. The author/compiler of more than 250 books, she's still a down-to-earth teacher interested in helping students learn.

For more information contact UCA's Division of Academic Outreach and Extended Programs, Brewer Hegeman Conference Center, Suite 102, 201 Donaghey, Conway, AR 72035. Phone: 501/450-3118. E-mail: [communityed@uca.edu](mailto:communityed@uca.edu)

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## Online Index to Arkansas Historical Quarterly

There is now an online index to the Arkansas Historical Quarterly which covers all the articles from 1942 through 2000. You can download the entire 23 megabyte .pdf file (874 pages) or click on the alphabet letter of interest and check the index online. The website is <http://arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/> (note there is no www in the URL). Check by place name, subject, and personal name. For details about the Arkansas Historical Association, see <http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/>.

Source: *News from Arkansas Research, Inc.* (email newsletter), by Desmond Walls Allen, 24 July 2006.

## Arkansas Links:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/home.htm>

Arkansas Historical Association  
<http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/>

*Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Index, 1942–2000

<http://arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives  
<http://www.southwestarchives.com/>

## Tips for Arkansas Researchers:

### Label Your Library Baggage

When you head for the library, you take some of your possessions with you, don't you? Have you thought about labeling them so they can find their way back to you if you get excited about a new grandpa and abandon your property in the frenzy?

Notebooks and folders are easy to label. Just tape your business card on the front cover of each item. You did order some of those free business cards, didn't you? If not, you'll have to make up some for this purpose. Include your contact information. And write on the card "Reward for Return."

Slip a business card into your laptop case; tape one on the handle of your umbrella or put one in a luggage tag and attach to your briefcase, umbrella, or any other item you take from home.

If you take a USB drive with you to download information from computers, here's a good tip: create a little text file and copy it to the drive. Name the file something like <+Reward for Return, Read this.txt> — start it with some acceptable (there are some punctuation marks you can't use in file names) punctuation character like the plus sign so it will appear at the top of the list of files on the drive.

These little drives are variously called USB drives, thumb drives, jump drives, flash drives, etc., but essentially they're little devices that plug into a USB (universal serial bus) port on a computer and are used as a means to transfer files.

Create the text file with any word processor or WordPad that comes with Windows but save it as a text file (.txt) rather than a document file (.doc). When you create the file, include your contact information and a note about e-mailing you if the device is found sticking in some library computer. If someone does e-mail you about the USB drive, you can ask her to e-mail the files on it to you or mail the poor little lost item through the post office. By all means ante up a reward.

For some added insurance, don't take original papers with you when you go out of the house. What if the person who finds your notebook or file folder dumps it in the wastebasket? When you discover you've lost something, better to utter a deep sigh than have a heart attack.

Submitted by Desmond Walls Allen

## Upcoming articles in the Arkansas Family Historian:

Volume 44, Number 3 (September 2006)

- Listening for the Untold Stories: Strategies for Capturing the Narratives of Women in the South Prior to the 20th Century—Part 3
- Obituary Index of the *Mena Weekly Star*: 1904-1906
- Mrs. Mattie Lambert Married Twice In One Day?
- Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church Register of Communicants, Calhoun Co., AR, 1854-1947
- Arkansas Ancestry Certificates
- Arkansas Queries
- Book Review



## Events:

### AGS Fall Seminar

Friday evening, 20 October 2006: Featuring **Gregory A. Boyd (See article below)**

- Family Maps\*
- More Skeletons than You Can Count\*\*

Saturday, 21 October 2006: Featuring **Barbara Vines Little**

- Born in Virginia: How Do I Find Him?
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part I
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part II
- Beyond the Courthouse: Virginia's Manuscript Collections

Friday only, \$15. Saturday only, \$25. Friday and Saturday, \$35.

Place: Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham, Little Rock, Arkansas.

See AGS website [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org) for details or write Seminar Chair Gloria Futrell at [gfuturell@aol.com](mailto:gfuturell@aol.com).

#### \*Family Maps by Gregory A. Boyd

At the upcoming Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar, Greg Boyd will share with us many tips and tricks to making best use of his critically-acclaimed "Family Maps" series of books. These books, which are over 180 in number so far, map the locations for first land-owners among counties in sixteen different states. Arkansas is one of those states Boyd has focused on and he has already published books with maps for thousands of first landowners located in these counties: Cleburne, Columbia, Conway, Drew, Faulkner, Hempstead, Howard, Logan, Newton, Pike, Pulaski, Saline, Searcy, Scott, Union, Van Buren, and Washington.

At least one new Arkansas book is published each month while the overall series grows by an amazing three books each week, on average. The "Family Maps" series offers up one of the simplest methods ever devised to determine maiden-name possibilities identify related-families who migrated together, and to actually locate where ancestral land is located. States besides Arkansas which have received treatment in this series are Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wisconsin.

During the Family Maps talk, Greg will also discuss other related tools available on the internet and how to make best use of them. There is also a chance that the upcoming Texas Survey Land Maps series about to be released by his company may get a moment or two of mention. Arphax Publishing, Greg's company, will be exhibiting at the Conference and Greg and his wife, Vicki, co-owners of the company, will be available for questions. You can always find out more about this historic project by visiting their web-site at [www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com).

\*\*In his other session on Friday, entitled "More Skeletons than You Can Count," Greg will share with us why we should not be afraid to dig deeper into our family's past just because we have heard there are "skeletons in the closet." He will do most of this while relating to us how he came to uncover an unusually "colorful" past on both sides of his family.

This session promises to both entertain and educate while Boyd tries to motivate us as family historians be truth-seekers and truth-tellers, and to be careful not to perpetuate half-truths or outright lies. Greg jokes that "all the great sins are represented in my tree," but insists there is a serious side to all of the bad behavior and he tries to help us know when it is okay to share what we have learned and with whom, and how.

Greg's main goal in pursuing the truth about the skeletons in his own family has been to help him understand some of the behavior of his close kin, his birth-family and himself. His curiosity about how his family came to believe the way they do, and act the way they do during good times and bad, has motivated him to approach genealogy and family history with "no blinders" and to try to see people the way they really were and are. He plans on sharing his approach with us, and to show us how we, like he, can learn from the errors in our family's past.

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## **Standridge National Family Reunion to Come to Arkansas**

The Standridge National Family Historical Society, a nationwide organization made up of descendants of early American pioneers named Standridge, announces that it have chosen Eureka Springs, Arkansas as the site of its next biannual national family reunion. The dates are Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, 2006. The reunion's theme is "Come Shelter under our Family Tree."

The society, made up of family members from across the country, meets ever two years to discuss family history, discover mutual connections, and enjoy fellowship. The organization's last reunion, in 2004 in Greenville, South Carolina, attracted some 200 relatives and guests.

Of special interest at this reunion, will be discovering the descendents of an early Arkansan, Alexander Standridge, who brought his large family from Illinois to the wilds of Carroll County, Arkansas, and settled near Carrollton about 1836. Later, much of the family moved into Newton County. Other family members moved to Oklahoma, California, and other points west. However, a remarkable number of Alexander's descendents still live in Arkansas.

Many other members of the Society descend from James Standridge, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, whose descendents came to western Arkansas during the 1850s.

The reunion is open to everyone interested in the Standridge family name. The local headquarters motel in Eureka Springs will be the Inn of the Ozarks.

For more reunion information or a sample copy of the Standridge Family Newsletter, contact Russell P. Baker at 6525 Magnolia Dr., Mabelvale, AR 72103 or (email) [gobgob3@mindspring.com](mailto:gobgob3@mindspring.com).

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## 2006 Regional Archive Workshop

The Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance) will present a one week workshop at the National Archives-Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas (2-6 October 2006).

RIGS Alliance workshops are designed for genealogists, historians, and librarians with a general genealogical or historical grounding who want to learn skills and techniques for researching original records at national and regional archives. To ensure a quality experience, enrollment is limited. Although the workshops focus on records within the region, many of the record types are available at other NARA regional facilities.

Activities are based on an integrated curriculum with an emphasis on methodology and problem-solving skills. Attendees work in teams to complete assigned projects and to build confidence in research proficiency. All workshops provide an opportunity for on-site research.

Workshop staff: J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, and Linda Woodward Geiger, CG, CGL, co-directors of RIGSA Alliance, with assistance from the expert staff members from NARA's Regional Archives.

For details about the RIGS Alliance workshops, please visit the web site at [www.rigsalliance.org](http://www.rigsalliance.org); e-mail [info@rigsalliance.org](mailto:info@rigsalliance.org); or write to RIGS Alliance Workshop, P.O. Box 1273, Jasper, GA 30143.

Editor's Note: The National Archives-Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas, is the National Archives branch covering Arkansas.

## Book Notices:

***Cleveland County, Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*** is a 9 x 12 book containing 584 pages with over 600 family histories and 750 photographs. It contains a brief history of the county and its communities. The durable hard cover is navy with gold logo and print. Published by Walsworth Publishing of Marceline, Missouri. All proceeds from sales of this book go to the Cleveland County Historical and Genealogical Society and the proposed extension and furnishing of the History and Genealogy Room of the Sturgis Library of Cleveland County. Order for \$75.00 + \$10.00 shipping and handling per copy from Cleveland County Historical & Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 192, Rison, AR 71665. Books may be purchased in person at the Sturgis Library in Rison; from Billie Langford or Louise Mitchell at Kingsland; or from Lynn and Irene Wooley at Woodlawn.

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ARKANSAS TRAVELERS II: Descendants & Ancestors of Gilford Garner of Dallas County, Arkansas is the culmination of seventeen years of research into the descendants and ancestry of Gilford Garner, the son of a Revolutionary War soldier and a native of Georgia, his two wives, and his over 3000 descendants. This 565 page volume tracks the descendants that started out in Alabama and have now migrated around the country. The Garners, genealogical and historical researchers, published the award-winning

Arkansas Traveler and provide for you this hardcover book for only the \$55 printing costs plus \$5.00 per book for shipping. Printed on pH neutral paper, conforming to Library of Congress standards, with an every-name index, the book has many pictures, maps, and documents. Ancestry to his *Sons of the American Revolution* Ancestor, as well as ancestry to Charlemagne, is given. To order your copy, please send a check for \$60 made out to Hallie Garner. For additional information contact: Hallie Garner, 8923 Woodshore Dr., Dallas, TX 75243-6531; phone: 214-349-3869; email: hallie.garner@sbcglobal.net Libraries may send purchase orders via US mail or email.

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Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, available from www.ArkansasResearch.com. The first book is the index to all obituaries from 1976 to 2005; the remaining books are photocopies of all the actual obituaries. All were collected by John T. Sanders, Sr., then indexed and published by Desmond Walls Allen. You can also view the actual indexes to each volume at the Arkansas Research website. Note that obituaries for these time periods are often for people born back in the late 1800s. Published 2006.

Index to Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-2005.

ISBN 1-56546-327-7, 139 pages, \$23.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-1981.

ISBN 1-56546-329-3, 318 pages, \$36.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1982-1987

ISBN 1-56546-330-7, 287 pages, \$33.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1988-1993

ISBN 1-56546-331-5, 302 pages, \$34.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1994-1999

ISBN 1-56546-332-3, 364 pages, \$39.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 2000-2005

ISBN 1-56546-328-5, 430 pages, \$47.00

SET of all 5 books: *Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-2005*, ISBN 1-56546-333-1, SET of all 5 books listed above, \$170.00.

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Opt-out notice:

If you do not wish to receive the AGS E-zine, please send your name and email address to AGS_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org. Just tell us you don't wish to receive the E-zine, and you will be removed from our list. If you know of someone who wants to be on the list to receive the e-zine, please send the name and email address to the address above.

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