

# The Arkansas Genealogical Society E-zine

Volume 2, Number 4 (April 2007)

Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley  
and Lynda Childers Suffridge

\* \* \* \* \*

## **[AGS Membership Application](http://www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm)**

<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm>

\* \* \*

If you missed an issue of the E-zine, need to make an email address correction, or to add your address to the email list, please go to <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm>

\* \* \*

## **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.

\* \* \*

Last month, I wrote an Editor's Note, saying that, "Thanks to the assistance of a friend, I was able to add hyperlinks to the items in the Table of Contents, so you can go directly to any section." Well, although the links worked perfectly well in my XML Word document, they did not translate to the newsletter sent out via Outlook Express. If anybody more technical minded than I has any idea why this didn't work, please email me and help me fix the problem. Thanks! CEB

\* \* \*

Editor's Note #2: I fully expect that all of you were waiting with bated breath for the April issue of the AGS E-zine and, thus, were completely

crestfallen when it didn't arrive in your mailbox promptly on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. First of all, I had spring fever; then that spring fever turned into allergies, which then turned into bronchitis. I've been physically "off line" for the past week. I'm much better now, so here is your monthly e-zine a few days late.  
CEB

## Table of Contents:

- Introduction
- Discount on Family Tree DNA services
- News about Arkansas Genealogy
- Notes from Other Areas
- Arkansas Links
- Tips for Arkansas Research
- Upcoming articles in the *Arkansas Family Historian*
- Events
- Special Article—Tucker DNA Project
- Book Notices
- AGS Publications
- Queries

---

## 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 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* or to the *AGS Newsletter*.

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.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **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 [http://www.ftdna.com/surname\\_join.asp?code=L81808](http://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](http://www.familytreedna.com) or contact them at [info@familytreedna.com](mailto:info@familytreedna.com) or 713-868-1438.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **News about Arkansas Genealogy:**

## AHC Launches Updated and Enhanced Website

The Arkansas History Commission (AHC) launched its redesigned website March 20, 2007, at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com). The new home page features easier navigation and interactive elements, including a Civil War Arkansas screensaver and virtual postcards.

The "Today in Arkansas History" feature displays a Walter J. Lemke drawing for each day of the year. The "About Us" gives information on the AHC, Commission members and staff, our branch archives—the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) located at Washington, Arkansas, the Black History Advisory Committee, the Arkansas State Historical Records Advisory Board (AHRAB), and volunteering. "Plan Your Visit" will equip anyone to visit the AHC.

"How to Research" offers information on the types of materials held by the AHC and access to source materials lists, research tips, and order forms. Updates about events and holdings are available in "News & Events."

The newest star at the Arkansas History Commission is **CARAT**— Catalog of Arkansas Resources and Archival Treasures. In CARAT, researchers can search holdings through online databases (including Biodex, county records, land records, newspaper holdings, Arkansas Confederate Pensions, Arkansas Confederate Home Records, master list of microfilm, the Small Manuscript Collections, and Shrader and Thomas Harding negatives).

Through the online public access catalog (OPAC) patrons can search for books, pamphlets, and over 12,500 historical Arkansas photographs. Ancestry Library Edition, now available at the AHC, provides free service to patrons in our research room.

Watch CARAT for the launch of "Documenting Arkansas," our newest digital project, which will allow digital access to significant Arkansas archival materials including Arkansas's constitutions, the Walter J. Lemke drawings, submissions to the Arkansas flag contest, as well as selected letters, pamphlets, broadsides and maps. If you have a question or comment, email [state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov).

---

## New Hot Spring County Records at the AHC

The Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock, in cooperation with the Genealogical Society of Utah, announces the completion of the microfilming of Hot Spring County, Arkansas, deed records dating 1887-1902. 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. This microfilm will be added to the Hot Spring County records already in the History Commission's collection.

## **New Cross County Records at the AHC**

The Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock in cooperation with the Genealogical Society of Utah has just completed the microfilming of some of the older records of Cross County. These records have been housed at the county library, the county museum, and the courthouse at Wynne.

Included in this filming project are Cross County deed records from 1886 to 1900; loose probate packets dating from 1898 to 1930, containing documents from several hundred individual estates; and loose Chancery Court records dating from 1880 to 1949, which contain information relating to lawsuits, debts, estate disputes, and divorces. This microfilm will be added to the Cross County records already in the History Commission's collection.

## **New Phillips County Records at the AHC**

The Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock in cooperation with the Genealogical Society of Utah has just completed the microfilming of older Phillips County records at the courthouse in Helena. The filming is part of a microfilming project began in 1976 that has copied early county records from all courthouses in Arkansas.

Including in this filming are Phillips County marriage records dating from 1921 to 1951, and deed records dating from 1886 to 1906. Also filmed were Monroe County Chancery Court records dating from 1865 to 1936.

For additional information on the History Commission's collections, visit its website at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com) or call 501-682-6900.

---

## **Be a Volunteer at the State Archives**

If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Arkansas History Commission, please fill contact the AHC. For more information, call 501.682.6900, or email [state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov).

Jane M. Hooker, Archivist  
Arkansas History Commission, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201;  
501.682.6895; [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com); [jane.hooker@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.hooker@arkansas.gov)

---

## AGS E-mail List

To sign up for the AGS e-mail list, send an email to [ags-request@rootsweb.com?subject=subscribe](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>>

---

## A Lesson in Family History [Pope County]

By NATALIE HOFFMAN, *Napa Valley Register* Staff Writer  
Sunday, March 25, 2007

Do you know enough about your family's history to write its story? Napans Anna Gentile and Nancy Gilien do—and will receive an award and cash prize for their efforts.

The pair's mother, Celeste Campbell, worked for the American Red Cross during World War I as a nurse, one of the few socially acceptable jobs for women at that time. "But our mom was so independent. At 16, she got into nursing school, finishing at 19. She was also called into hospitals for surgeries. ... She loved it and had a wonderful time. (Around 1920), she made \$120 per month at a time when women teachers got \$50 a month," Gentile said.

Identical twins, Gentile and Gilien, 81, will receive the Lucille Westbrook Award and \$500 from the Arkansas Historical Association on April 27 for co-authoring their research paper. The women's paper, titled "The Introduction of Public Health Nursing to Pope County, Arkansas," chronicles their mother's participation in the public health movement throughout the early 20th century.

Read the rest of this article at the *Napa Valley Register* (California) web site:  
[www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2007/03/25/news/local/doc4606ce813205c772824732.txt](http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2007/03/25/news/local/doc4606ce813205c772824732.txt)

---

## **Baxter County Library unveils a new Web site**

*The Baxter Bulletin*

(Note: *The Baxter Bulletin* covers north central Arkansas)

The Baxter County Library has updated its Web site to make it more user friendly.

Online databases on genealogy, . . . are available to any library cardholder with a PIN number. The library catalog is also accessible, . . . [and ] The Friends of the Library have a new page listing monthly meetings, events and book sales. The site is complete with "Helpful Links" that can be used by people in the community for government sites, medical sites, local sites, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas and Clinton Presidential Library. . . .

"We're pleased to offer access to many of the Library's resources via our Web page," said Gwen Khayat, Baxter County librarian. "This is another way to let the community know the range of services and activities available at the Library."

For information, log on to the site at [www.baxtercountylibrary.org](http://www.baxtercountylibrary.org), or call 425-3598, ext. 25.

To read complete article published Mar 21, 2007

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070321/NEWS01/703210304/1002/NEWS01>

---

## **More about *The Baxter Bulletin's* online services**

Obituaries for the past week can be accessed online at *The Baxter Bulletin's* website; at <http://www.baxterbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=OBITUARIES>, and choose which day to examine (or just go to the main page at [baxterbulletin.com](http://www.baxterbulletin.com) and choose the link for obituaries).

Their archives can be searched free and cover past issues back to 18 September 2003. "Searching is fast and free. Once you have found an article, you can purchase the individual article, buy an archive subscription, or if you already have an archive subscription, log in to view the article."

Any articles published within the past week are free. The pricing for various modes appears on the website. A single article is \$2.95, and a 24-hour pass, or ten articles is \$9.95. (There are many other options.) Payment is by credit card. They offer special rates for educational organizations, so please contact them at [sales@newsbank.com](mailto:sales@newsbank.com).

The *Baxter Bulletin's* archives search page is located at

[http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?s\\_site=baxterbulletin&p\\_product=BBTB&p\\_theme=gannett&p\\_action=keyword](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?s_site=baxterbulletin&p_product=BBTB&p_theme=gannett&p_action=keyword)

## Notes from Other Areas

### **Who is a Cherokee? Many Americans have Indians in the family tree**

*Steve Hammons*  
*The American Chronicle; March 6, 2007*

The Oklahoma Cherokee Nation's vote last weekend to remove African-Americans from official tribal membership made news in the U.S. and around the world.

In a special election Saturday, 76 percent of the 270,000 members of the Cherokee Nation voted to remove the black "freedmen" from official tribal membership.

The estimated 2,800 freedman are ancestors of slaves held by Cherokees when they were forced from the Appalachian Mountain region on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838-1839. Over 4,000 Cherokees died from hardships along the way.

Although this specific issue of the position of freedmen is interesting and relevant today, the case brings up several related factors that affect a much larger slice of Americans.

This is because many Americans have Cherokee or other Native American DNA within their genetic makeup. . . .

For the full story, go to  
<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=21743>

---

### **Chronicling America Web Site**

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>

This site allows you to search and read newspaper pages from 1900–1910 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690–present.



Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP).

---

## **Thomas Jay Kemp Announces New Blog**

From the APG-List

Hi. I wanted to let you know that I've launched my own blog: \*Genealogy Librarian News \*at <http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Back in the late 90's I began an e-mail newsletter of the same name Genealogy Librarian News.

I want it to be a way to spread the word on news, announcements and other items of interest to genealogy librarians.

The original e-mail newsletter was published from the late 1990s to about 2002. It also had a print version for several years.

That e-mail newsletter ran under several names and had a circulation of 17,000 subscribers.

So, if you have news about genealogy libraries ... let me know.

Tom

Thomas Jay Kemp  
APG Member

[Thomas.J.Kemp@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.J.Kemp@gmail.com)  
\*Genealogy Librarian News\* at <http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com/>

---

## **Preservation Tips**

From: Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library  
No. 37, March 31, 2007  
From: Genealogy Gems <[genealogygems@genealogycenter.info](mailto:genealogygems@genealogycenter.info)>  
Subject: [GenealogyGems] Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 37, March 31, 2007

The following is a very good website covering many aspects of preservation from the Library of Congress. <[www.loc.gov/preserv/](http://www.loc.gov/preserv/)>

There are three major sections on the main page: Preservation at the Library, Preservation of Your Materials, and Special Topics & Presentations. The second link in the second section called,

"Preparing, Protecting, Preserving Family Treasures" is a particularly good link to explore.

Editor's Note: You can write this site to be put on their email list to receive their regular newsletter about the Fort Wayne Library.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arkansas Links:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page  
[www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

Arkansas State Highway Department  
County and State Highway maps for sale  
[www.arkansashighways.com](http://www.arkansashighways.com)

Arkansas Historical Association  
[www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/](http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/)

Arkansas Historical Quarterly Index, 1942–2000  
[arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/](http://arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/)

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

Baxter County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society:  
[www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/](http://www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/)

Baxter County Bulletin (newspaper online)  
[www.baxterbulletin.com](http://www.baxterbulletin.com)

Benton County, Arkansas, GenWeb:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~arbenton/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~arbenton/)

Bentonville Public Library, Benton, County, Arkansas:  
[www.youseemore.com/bentonville/](http://www.youseemore.com/bentonville/)

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies:  
[www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/](http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/)

Conway County Genealogical Society:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~arconway/ccga.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~arconway/ccga.htm)

Encyclopedia of Arkansas  
[www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

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

[www.epodunk.com/](http://www.epodunk.com/)

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

National Register of Historic Sites, Arkansas:  
[www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html](http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html)

Newton County Historical Society:  
[www.newtoncountyar.com](http://www.newtoncountyar.com)

Prairie County, Arkansas, Genealogical Homepage:  
[www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/prairie/](http://www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/prairie/)

Prairie County, Arkansas, Rootsweb:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~arprairi/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~arprairi/)

Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies:  
[www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/](http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/)

Russellville, Pope County, Arkansas, Newspaper: The Courier  
[www.couriernews.com/](http://www.couriernews.com/)

Saline County, Arkansas, Genealogy Page:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~arsaline/](http://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/](http://www.saline.lib.ar.us/)

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives:  
[www.southwestarchives.com/](http://www.southwestarchives.com/)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Tips for Arkansas Researchers:

### Blogs

Submitted by Carolyn Earle Billingsley

Be sure to check out blogs (a word coined as a combination of web + log) as part of your research. I often go to Google News, enter a search term (like "Arkansas Genealogy"), and then click on "Search Blogs."

Here's a really good one that turned up on my last search; it's called Arkansas Ties: Photographing the Past for the Future, and is located at <http://www.arkansasties.com/> . The

owner and author is Pris Weathers. The home page states "there are over 1200 pages of cemeteries, places, people, and news." So there are scads of wonderful photographs of Arkansas places there.

In "What's New," she lists (among other things): "Working on Mississippi County (which I am going to try and wrap up by tomorrow) I have added: Garden Point Cemetery—Listed on the national register and not an inventory (sorry not enough time.) There is also a page of county links and a search facility."

There are many good blogs out there, full of information that can aid you in your research. Search them out at Google Blog Search <<http://blogsearch.google.com>>.

[Editor's Note: If you search on "Carolyn Earle Billingsley," you might even stumble onto my personal blog called "Life in Possum Holler." I'm not guaranteeing it'll help you with your genealogical research, but it sure will tell you more about me than most people want to know!]

---

## **Filling in Those Blanks**

Submitted by Desmond Walls Allen

Pull out those pedigree charts and groups sheets. See those blank spots for specific dates? Sometimes you just can't, no matter how much research you do, fill in an exact date.

A researcher contacted me recently about the death date for her great-grandmother in Fulton County. She knew the woman married in 1888, had several children, and died before 1900. She wanted an exact date for her records. She'd exhausted the usual list of sources. There was no tombstone as far as she could determine; no newspaper abstract in an indexed source; no family Bible record.

Without an approximate death date, even just a year, reading newspapers on microfilm (assuming she could obtain the film) is an exhausting, time-consuming option.

I suggested she find the widowed husband in the federal census schedules for 1900 to see if he'd remarried. A man left with small children to rear usually had to remarry or find homes for his children with other relatives. The 1900 census gives an approximate length of time a couple has been married.

I suggested she also look for a second marriage record for the husband. If she knows the birth date of her great-grandmother's last child and the date of the husband's remarriage, she can at least bracket the death date with some certainty.

I asked her, too, if she'd found descendants of all the children, hoping that some long-lost cousin might have additional information.

So identify those blank spots on those pedigree charts and think about bracketing a date, rather than focusing on obtaining a record with the exact date. Happy hunting!

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Upcoming articles— Arkansas Family Historian:

Planned contents for Volume 45, Number 2  
(June 2007)

Submitted by Susan Boyle, Editorial Committee

We plan to print an article about Melissa Botts Williams, a Confederate spy; obituaries from the Landmark Baptist 1907–1908; students' names and ages listed in a Hampton (Calhoun County) School Register 1891–1892; a transcript of a newspaper article about Early Social Life in Arkansas; an article about David Jenkins' prior birth certificate, filed 1949, that has extensive family information written on the back; and a list of Cleveland County Confederate Pensioners.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Events:

### Genealogy bus tour available

From *The Courier*, Russellville, Arkansas, Tuesday, March 27, 2007  
<http://www.couriernews.com/story.php?ID=14260>

The Fort Smith Public Library is taking reservations for a Genealogy Bus Tour to the Dallas Public Library and Southwest Region National Archives in Fort Worth. The trip is May 17–19 and will include roundtrip charter bus service, shuttle to and from the Archives and Library, and accommodations at Country Inn and Suites in Dallas. Round-trip bus fair is \$120 and must be paid by April

16. Each person will be responsible for their room and meals. For more information, call (479) 783-0229.

Editor's Note: *The Courier* has an online search for articles and obituaries. An unscientific study on my part reveals obituaries online back to about 2002. You can search on a name and the results page will show you the entire obituary listings for that date. There doesn't seem to be any charge for this service. Their archives are located at <<http://www.couriernews.com/archives.php>>. Russellville, Arkansas, is located in Pope County.

---

**Arkansas Genealogical Society's  
Free Workshop  
Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Pleasant Valley Church of Christ  
10900 Rodney Parham Rd  
Little Rock, AR 72212**

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sponsoring a free workshop featuring Russell Pierce Baker and Lynda Childers Suffridge.

**Registration will be limited!**

8:30-9:30 am: Registration

9:30-10:30 am: Five Civilized Tribes and Their Records – Part I by Russell Baker

10:30-11:00 am: Break

11:00-12:00 noon: Five Civilized Tribes and Their Records – Part II by Russell Baker

12:00 noon-1:00 pm: Lunch [\$6.50 per person]

1:00-2:00 pm: Land Records, Part I – Federal Land Survey System by Lynda Suffridge

2:00-2:30 pm: Break

2:30-3:30 pm: Land Records, Part II – Metes & Bounds by Lynda Suffridge

Plan Now to Attend!

For more information contact: Contact Jan Davenport at  
jhdavenport@comcast.net or [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

---

## **2007 Spring Family History Workshop**

The Village Genealogical Society, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, will host a 2007 Spring Family History Workshop featuring George G. Morgan, internationally known speaker and author, Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the Coronado Center, 150 Ponderosa Lane, Hot Springs Village.

The morning session is "Genealogical Research on the Internet" and the afternoon session is "Advanced Genealogical Research Methodologies for the Internet."

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. Seminar Fee is \$25.00 if postmarked by February 12, 2007 and \$30.00 postmarked after February 12, 2007. Mail check payable to Village Genealogical Society and mail to VGS, 5 Lindsay Place, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

You may call Jeanette Frahm at (501)922-9220 or email her at [J44F65@yahoo.com](mailto:J44F65@yahoo.com) for information. You may also check their website for additional information and directions at <http://members.cox.net/hsvgs/>

---

## **North Arkansas Ancestor Fair June 1-2, 2007, Marshall, Arkansas**

The Searcy County Historical Society and the Searcy County Library will sponsor the 18th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, a genealogical swap meet.

Friday, June 1, Dr John Littlefield will speak on Native American Research.

Saturday, June 2, is the genealogical swap meet for north Arkansas families and organizations to exchange information. Over 250 people are expected.

For more information contact: Dorothy Ragland  
<[ragland1935@yahoo.com](mailto:ragland1935@yahoo.com)> or see: [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us).  
The schedule and forms are now up on the website: <[www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)>

---

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## Book Notices:

### New Books from Arkansas Research, Inc.

#### **Index to the Arkansas Gazette, January through June, 1900**

*By Cathy Barnes*

ISBN 1-56546-339-4, 160 pages, softbound, \$24.00

#### **Index to the Arkansas Gazette, July through December, 1900**

*By Cathy Barnes*

ISBN 978-1-56546-380-6, 155 pages, softbound, \$24.00

Shannon Henderson did a subject index to the Arkansas Gazette, our state paper of record, through 1894. Cathy picked up that project, starting with 1895, and has gone far beyond just subjects—she's indexed all of it—with a note about each item. This series of indexes opens a vast resource for historians and genealogists. The volume for the second half of 1900 lists over 2,000 deaths from the Galveston hurricane. See the indexes to both of these volumes on our website, [www.ArkansasResearch.com](http://www.ArkansasResearch.com)

#### **Historical and Genealogical Abstracts from Randolph County, Arkansas, Newspapers of 1919**

*By Burton Ray Knotts*

ISBN 978-1-56546-378-3, 234 pages, \$33.00

If you have Randolph County folks, you're in luck: Burton has completed another volume of newspaper abstracts. Check the index online.

#### **Abstracts from Masonic Records: Grand Lodge of Arkansas, 1880-1883**

*By Desmond Walls Allen*

ISBN 978-1-56546-379-0, 240 pages, \$29.00

We've added another volume of Masonic records. This one contains membership lists for all the active local lodges in 1880. See the index to all our Masonic volumes online.

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

---

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



## AGS Publications:

For complete list of Arkansas Genealogical Society publications, go to [www.agsgenealogy.org/publications.htm](http://www.agsgenealogy.org/publications.htm)

### Information on Arkansas Prior Birth Indexes

One of the most significant and helpful publications published by AGS is the Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volumes I, II, III, and IV, available on one searchable CD for a reasonable price. However, there seems to be a lot of confusion about what exactly these records are. Here is an explanation from Russell P. Baker and a further note from Susan Boyle.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society, Arkansas Prior Birth Index CD, Volumes I - IV has 146,512 names on it. The last birth date is 12/31/1905. There are three birth dates prior to 12/15/1849, one is 12/27/1800 (could that be right?), the other two are obvious typos (7/9/1184 and 6/20/0190).

This is copied from the CD:

"Priors" is the term used by the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Vital Records, to designate those delayed birth certificates which were filed between 1942 and 1985 to record birth information for persons born prior to 1914, when state law first mandated reporting of births. The filing of the "Prior" certificates was encouraged by the requirements of the Social Security Act and participation in World War II. Before 1938, any delayed certificates submitted to ADH were simply filed at the end of the regular certificates for births occurring in that year.

The "priors" certificates that were filed beginning in 1942 were alphabetized and arranged in volumes of approximately two hundred certificates each. The volumes were then filed in binders. The certificates contain wonderful information such as county, township, city and address of birth. Besides the name, date of birth and place of birth of the child, the certificate asked for the name, age, residence, occupation, and place of birth of the parents, including maiden name of mother.

Other information includes the birth order of the child, the number of children living at the time of the birth, if the child was a twin or other multiple births, and if the child was legitimate or not. Also a witness, who testified to the details of the birth, was required to sign before a notary and his relationship is often stated, as well as his address when he signed.

Since 1995 the certificates that are more than one hundred years old have been legally available to the public. However, the Division of Vital Records has never had a complete and accurate index to them. In 1999, an agreement

was reached between the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Genealogical Society by which AGS volunteers are allowed to index the certificates in a database set up and maintained at ADH.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is allowed to publish indexes to the one hundred year old information, and the Division of Vital Records will have an accurate and more complete index by which to access certificates when requested by the public.

This volume contains the names of those persons who were born before 1906 and whose certificates were filed in 1944 and 1945. It also contains the 1905 births filed in 1942 and 1943, which were not eligible to be published in previous volumes. There are birth certificates dating back as far as 1861 in this volume. AGS is currently indexing the certificates of the 1946 filings, which will be published in the future.

In the United States the keeping of vital records, certificates of births and deaths, is currently regarded as an essential function of state and local governments. Every genealogist knows that such records contain a gold mine of family history information. Unfortunately, the keeping of vital records is a relatively recent development in some parts of this country. Arkansas, like most states in the South, did not begin keeping vital records until after 1900. The Arkansas Health Department, whose job it is to collect and maintain these records, was not established until 1913. A system for collecting birth and death information was not put in place until February 1, 1914.

In 1942 just as the United States was entering World War II, many Arkansans, especially those born before 1914, found themselves in need of "proof" of age and other birth information for the first time. There are several possible causes of this sudden need:

- The Social Security Act, setting up the modern Social Security System, became law in 1935. It made pension payments possible to workers 65 years of age or older. In 1939 provisions were added allowing payments to spouses and children of disabled or deceased workers. However, in order to receive these benefits, workers or the survivors had to provide official proof of age and relationship.
- In 1937 the Arkansas General Assembly established the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare with a mandate to assist "needy persons" who had been state residents for one year and who were "65 years of age or over". However, to obtain these benefits proof of age was required.
- As WWII began many industries, especially those making war related products, required proof of age and citizenship as a condition of employment.

In accordance with Act 1254 of 1995, Arkansas law allows people doing genealogical research to obtain a copy of a birth certificate, if it is one hundred years old. The Arkansas Genealogical Society approached the Arkansas Department of Health in creating an index for making this

information available. ADH had an index, but it was not accurate or complete. Thus, the Health Department agreed to provide the working space, database, and computer equipment for the project.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society volunteers entered the data from the original certificates. The result of their constant labor is a comprehensive index of every name filed in 1942. After three and half years, the work completed by AGS now makes records more than 100 years old available to the public. The Arkansas Genealogical Society has created a valuable tool which will revolutionize Arkansas historical and genealogical research.

Russell P. Baker

~~~~~

-----Original Message-----

From: Susanb1996@aol.com  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2007 9:50 AM  
To: ags@rootsweb.com; WJhonson@aol.com  
Subject: Re: [AGS] AR Prior Birth Index

In a message dated 3/5/2007 9:34:34 AM Central Standard Time, WJhonson@aol.com writes:

<I believe that they can also cover the case where a person, for whatever reason, did not have a birth certificate \*even though\* born after 1914.>

"Priors" certificates only record persons born before 1 Feb 1914.

Persons who were born after that and did not have a birth certificate filed at the time of their birth filed "delayed" certificates later. One problem with the delayed certificates was that, for several years, they were filed at the end of the normal certificates for the year in which they filed.

A few of what should have been prior certificates ended up in that situation also. For example, a person born in 1912 filed for a delayed certificate in 1938 to get a job in a defense plant. His certificate was filed with the 1938 certificates because VRs had not yet started sorting the "prior" or pre-1914 certificates out into a separate record group. They didn't start doing that until 1942 when the volume of filings for pre-1914 births had become so large.

I believe Vital Records has completed indexing of their early delayed certificates. You will have to ask them.

~~~

#### **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](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## 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.

~ ~ ~

\* \* \*

Send your query in now! Or send in a question 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.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

---

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Copyright © Arkansas Genealogical Society, 2007