



Desmond Walls Allen and Lynda Childers Suffridge, editors
Jan Hearn Davenport, list manager

Philadelphia, Here We Come

Paula Stuart-Warren, CG
FGS/AGS 2009 National Publicity Chair

And then we're off to Little Rock the following year from September 2-5, 2009! The planning for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and Arkansas Genealogical Society 2009 conference is well under way. At this point, the conference team consists of many people from Arkansas and some from states near and far including: California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas. More volunteers will be needed as the pre-conference tasks evolve. Others will be needed during that conference week.



Paula Stuart
Warren, CG

If you are planning on attending the 2008 conference in Philadelphia, please consider joining the 2009 committee in working a few short shifts at the special FGS/AGS 2009 Exhibit Hall booth to help promote the 2009 Conference. Please send [Jan Davenport](#), National Conference Chair, an e-mail and let her know you want to help promote the 2009 conference while at the conference in Philly. The booth will have tons of information about Little Rock, Arkansas, and of course, Arkansas Genealogical Society. Visitors to the booth will learn about places to research and about tourism. Click for full details on the [FGS Philly conference](#).

I remember my first visit to Arkansas back in 1982 or 1983. The drive down from Minnesota brought our family into Arkansas through the breathtaking Ozarks. We were visiting relatives all over northwestern Arkansas. Then we found out that cousins lived back in St. Paul very near to our home.

The volunteers in Arkansas and beyond want to share the beauty of this state with other genealogists along with the education and networking aspects of a national conference. We can't share some of the special details for 2009 quite yet, but watch this e-zine for much more beginning this coming fall.

NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Jean Hall

Scotland, AR

Carla Hines Coleman

Little Rock, AR

Franke Johns

North Little Rock, AR

Linda Fischer

Stuttgart, AR

Dorothy Ball

Wilburn, AR

Sheila Young

Maumelle, AR

Annette Hester

Little Rock, AR

JOIN US!

[AGS Membership Application](#)

Arkansas USGenWeb Link Update

Click on www.argenweb.net to visit the Arkansas USGenWeb page. It's different as of a few months ago. USGenWeb used to be hosted by RootsWeb which, through the years, was bought out by a series of companies. Eventually, their focus ran in a different direction than USGenWeb's original philosophy of sharing free information contributed by volunteers.





So the bulk of USGenWeb pages have moved away from RootsWeb. If you go to www.argenweb.net, you can reach all the Arkansas county sites, even the ones that have yet to move from RootsWeb. Click now, and bookmark the link as one of your favorites in your Internet browser.

[Betsy Mills](#) is the fabulous person who serves as our ARGenWeb project state coordinator. Why not drop her a note and say thanks for the countless hours she contributes?

New Columbia County Books from AGS

Gloria Gary Futrell

Arkansas Genealogical Society is pleased to offer two new books to genealogists...

COLUMBIA COUNTY ARKANSAS CEMETERIES

Compiled by Marcia Chapman and Doris Fletcher

This book includes all 135 known cemeteries and burial plots in Columbia County, Arkansas. The authors surveyed the cemeteries beginning in 2001 and have annotated most of the 31,000 entries with information from obituaries. All of the cemeteries are listed alphabetically with location by range and township and GPS coordinates. Directions to locate the cemetery and a map making it easy to find are included. This book also includes the black cemeteries and will be hardbound with 666 pages. The price is \$60.00. Shipping charges will be \$12.50 plus Arkansas sales tax. Out of state residents do not pay Arkansas tax.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, ARKANSAS OBITUARY INDEX 1948-2004

Compiled by Marcia Chapman

This index is a valuable supplement to the cemetery book as it includes 26,000 entries of obituaries for people buried in Columbia County, as well as those who have connections to Columbia County and were buried elsewhere. From the index, the researcher will know which newspaper to find the obituary needed. Marcia Chapman searched the newspapers of Columbia County from 1948 to 2004. Copies of these obits are available at the Columbia County Library in Magnolia, Arkansas. The book has 492 pages and is hardbound. The price of the book is \$50.00 with shipping of \$12.50. Arkansas residents must pay sales tax according to their residence.

These two books are the newest additions to the Arkansas Genealogical Society's publications. To order go to www.agsgenealogy.org or write AGS, POB 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222.

2008 NGS Conference in Kansas City

Lynda Childers Suffridge

The 2008 NGS Conference in the States is May 14-17 2008 in Kansas City, Missouri. There is still time to make plans to attend the NGS Conference in Kansas City, Missouri!

Tuesday, 13 May 2008, is Librarians' Day at the Conference and is open to all genealogical librarians. This event is sponsored by ProQuest and is free to librarians. Advance registration is required.

Tuesday, 13 May 2008, is also the day the for Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) Education Fund Workshop. This event is limited to sixty people and requires an additional registration fee.

Wednesday, 14 May 2008, the conference opens and will include a track of ten lectures by archivists from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the regional offices covering such topics as records held by the Civilian Personnel Record Center or the Military Personnel Record Center, federal prison records, homestead records, and other topics. There will be presentations on DNA and its use in genealogy research. Additional topics lectures will cover include German research, Irish research, Hispanic research, Cuban research, French research, European research, African American research,

See the [detailed conference brochure](#). To sign up by mail print the registration form on the back page of the brochure and send with payment information, or [register online](#). View the complete [2008 conference program](#).

Beginner's Guide to Family History Research, New Edition!

Desmond Walls Allen

Beginner's Guide to Family History Research began in 1989 when Carolyn Earle Billingsley and I needed a textbook for beginning genealogy classes. None of the ones available said what we wanted to say, so we wrote our own. In 1991, American Genealogical Lending Library began publishing our book's first edition. We wrote a second edition in 1994, and a third in 1997. In 2001, I posted the book on my [ArkansasResearch.com website](#). It laid there peacefully, offering information to anyone who clicked on it.



Recently, I happened to take a long look at the book. "Gosh," I said, "it's *totally* out-of-date." We don't write snail-mail letters any more. How many of today's genealogists even know what an SASE is? No one in her right mind uses census records on microfilm. Paper used to be the only way to publish a family history. It's all so different now.

What happened? The Internet happened, that's what. The entire field of genealogy has undergone a paradigm shift (a paradigm shift is a fundamental change in our understanding of how something works). The way we obtain information about most anything has undergone the same revolution.

So I re-wrote the book in light of the wonderful transformation genealogy has undergone. I scrapped most everything but the basic outline of the previous editions. I teach beginning genealogy classes in a local university's community outreach program. I used that experience to create the new edition of the book.

If you're a teacher, list the book on your bibliography. If you have friends or cousins who are getting started in genealogy, send them the link. It's posted online at [www.ArkansasResearch.com/guideindex.htm](#). Enjoy!

Arkansas Marriage Indexing Project Update

Jan Hearn Davenport



The Arkansas Marriage Indexing Project is one year old! As of April 22nd, 812 volunteers have entered 245,812 names. We should be finishing Clay and Crittenden Counties very soon, and the next counties to be digitized for indexing will be Craighead, Greene, Mississippi and Poinsett. This is a huge project and depends entirely upon the efforts of our volunteers.

When ready for publication, the index will be made available *free of charge*. Those searching the index will be able to link to the digital image through [FamilySearch.org](#) and on [Arkansas Genealogical Society's webpage](#).

If you wish to volunteer to be an indexer please email 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](#). Download it, then click on "install now." Once you have a username & password you can start indexing!

New Book! Memoirs of an Ozark Pioneer and Civil War Soldier

T.R. Coatney's *Memoirs of an Ozark Pioneer and Civil War Soldier: Privates James Frances Coatney, First Arkansas Union Cavalry, Company D*, has just been released by [Jakie Spring Publishing](#), 69225 Yellow Daisy Lane, Sisters, OR 97759. It's an interesting story, taken from family stories and historical records, about one soldier's experiences in northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri. We've all read in general about the conflict between Union and Confederate sympathizers, but this book brings it down to specific incidents that actually happened. There's also a complete roster of Company D, First Arkansas Union Cavalry.

The book was edited by J.K. Phillips, author of *Jakie Creek: Legacy of an Ozark Outlaw*, a novel inspired by the life and times of William Henderson Phillips, a Union soldier from southwest Missouri.

Both books are available from the publisher. To order, go to [Jakie Spring Publishing](#).

New Book from UA Press: During Wind and Rain



Noted author Margaret Jones Bolsterli tells the story of her Jones family's Arkansas experience in *During Wind and Rain: The Jones Family Farm in the Arkansas Delta, 1848-2006*. She weaves the story in the context of the five generations of her family who settled on land near Watson in what is now Desha County.

The story is about the family, of course, but the story of the land and its transformation from wilderness to intense commercial cultivation is especially interesting. Bolsterli crafts the story from family lore, personal papers, primary sources, and historical narrative. This is what family history should be. Genealogists will be interested in the book as a model for writing family history.

To order, see the [UA Press website](#). The book is \$16.95, in paper.

Obituary: Dolores Murphy, former *AFH* editor

The AGS quarterly, *Arkansas Family Historian*, was first edited by W.J. Lemke. Then, beginning with the summer issue in 1964, Dolores Murphy of Conway edited *AFH* through 1972. Dolores died March 30, 2008.

The following is from her obituary in Conway's Log Cabin Democrat of April 1, 2008: "Dolores Jean (Parks) Murphy of Conway died Sunday at Conway Regional Medical Center. She was 77.

"She was the daughter of the late Ora Elmon and Ruby Mae (Dunham) Parks of Rogers. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Guy W. Murphy Sr.

"She was born Dec. 28, 1930, in Wynona, Okla. After living in several towns in Oklahoma and Arkansas, she and her family settled in Rogers, where she was an honors graduate of Rogers High School in 1947. She graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the university's first recipient of the Northwest Arkansas Times scholarship for journalism. It was in Fayetteville where she met her future husband Guy.

"After briefly living in Walnut Ridge, Dolores and Guy moved to Conway in 1952. In addition to being a homemaker, Dolores enjoyed working in a variety of businesses and institutions, including Pfeifer-Blass, Sears, the Conway Human Development Center, Horton Oil Company and Arka-Valley Dairy.

"She instilled in her five children a desire for lifelong education and learning. After raising her



she insulted in her five children a desire for lifelong education and learning. After raising her children with Guy, Dolores returned to college at the University of Central Arkansas where she earned an accounting degree, became a certified public accountant at age 58, and worked for the State of Arkansas as an auditor until her retirement.”

Dolores was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Conway on April 3rd.

Parley Pratt Stays in Arkansas



Parley Pratt
from a [family website](#)

Students of Arkansas history know about Parley Parker Pratt, a Mormon missionary who got himself murdered in Arkansas. Well, here’s the rest of the story.

Pratt converted Eleanor McLean, wife of California farmer Hector McLean, to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and she became Pratt’s twelfth wife. Hector McLean pursued Pratt, caught up with him in Crawford County, Arkansas, and killed him on May 13, 1857. The story of the events leading to Pratt’s death are told in many places, including [CrimeLibrary.com](#). Pratt’s body was buried in a small cemetery near Rudy. His death was one of the events that contributed to the Mountain Meadow Massacre on Sept. 11, 1857, when a wagon train of mostly Arkansas settlers enroute to California were assassinated by Mormons in Utah.

Recently, Pratt family members decided to dig up Parley and move his remains to Utah. Robert J. Smith of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* wrote two stories about the exhumation in the April 22 and 23 issues of the paper. Essentially, the digging revealed the grave contained “no specific identifiable human remains.” There wasn’t anything to move, so Parley Pratt is staying in Arkansas.

Administrative Stuff

To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](#), visit our website.

If you have friends and relatives who would like to receive this ezine, direct them to the [ezine sign-up link](#) on our website. Membership is not required to receive the AGS ezine, but we heartily encourage you to join our wonderful organization! [Membership details](#) are on our website.

If you have suggestions or comments about our ezine, rattle the editor’s cage at desmond@ipa.net.

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