



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

JOIN US!

This is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

Welcome New Members

Jane Gordon

Little Rock, AR

Robert E. McCaslin, Jr.

Houston, TX

April Keith

Conway, AR

Arkansas Prior Birth Index Volume 7 is Available Now!

Desmond Walls Allen

AGS has an on-going publishing project for birth records of folks born prior to February 1, 1914, when the legislative act requiring state-wide registration of births took effect. Those people born prior to the registration act had the option of filing birth certificates. The law allowing these “priors” as they’re called went into effect in 1942. World War II was heating up and people involved in the war effort needed to be able to prove not only their birthdates, but also their places of birth (gotta watch those enemy aliens masquerading as Arkansas natives).

The Arkansas law passed about 20 years ago that opened birth and death records said death records were open after 50 years, but birth records had to be 100 years old. So 1908 is the most recent year available for open birth records. There were plenty of folks born in 1914 and after who didn’t have their births recorded in a timely manner for one reason or another. When these people filed birth information at a later time, the records are called “delayed” birth certificates. None of the

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regular or delayed birth records will be available until 2014 when they're 100 years old.

AGS volunteers have been very busy, keying in these prior birth records. The newest volume contains records of folks who were born in the late 19th century up through 1908. It's the seventh volume of these records published by AGS.

Priors Volume 7 is available for sale from AGS, PO Box 17653, Little Rock, AR 72222, for \$75.00 plus \$12.50 shipping (Arkansas residents must add their local sales tax to the entire total).

The previous six volumes in the priors series are still available: www.agsgenealogy.org/publications.htm Content in each volume is *not* duplicated in other volumes. These are quality, hard-bound library books.

Most of us would rather have *all* the records, everything in all seven volumes, on one CD. The newest edition of the Priors CD is out and it's \$15.00 plus \$2.50 shipping (and sales tax for Arkies). The CD has search capability by the person's name, mother's maiden name, county, or date.

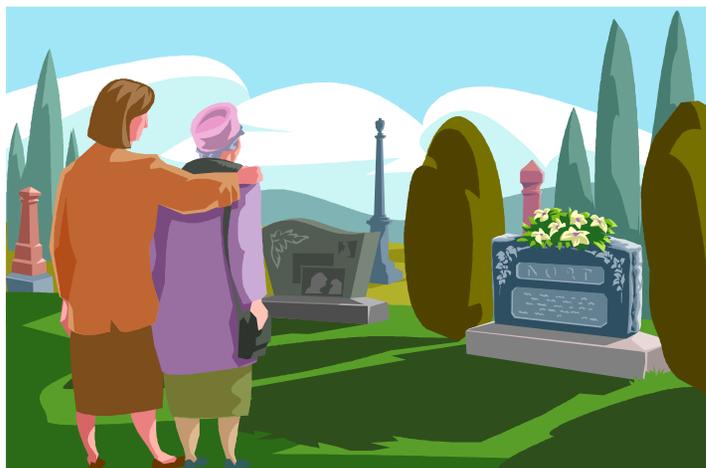
What if you find something in these books (or on the CD)? Then you can order a copy of the birth certificate and see all the details yourself. This is a great way to find cousins and use collateral relatives to help with your research.

Order your books or CD today!

CEMETERY SYMPOSIUM set for November 7, 2009

James J. Johnston

The Searcy County Historical Society is sponsoring a Cemetery Symposium Saturday, November 7, 2009 in Marshall, Arkansas. The four speakers will address Arkansas cemetery law, assistance and organization in preserving old cemeteries, problems in locating graves and grave location technology, especially using ground penetrating radar.



Planned to take place in the Petit Jean Electrical Co-op Building, 672 Airport Road, in Marshall, the speakers and program are:

- 9:30 -10:30 am—Arkansas Cemetery Law—George Butler, Washington County Attorney
- 11:00 - 12:00 am—Arkansas Cemetery Law, continued
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch break.
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm Bold Pilgrim: Cemetery Restoration Project, Dr Skip Stewart-Abernathy, Arkansas Archeological Survey
- 2:15 - 3:15 pm—Finding a Lost Grave and tips on "how to" using traditional discovery methods — Jerry Hilliard, Arkansas Archeological Survey

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- 3:30 - 4:30 pm Ground Penetrating Radar and Other Tools – Jamie Lockhart, Arkansas Archeological survey



James J. Johnston

Organizer of the Cemetery Symposium

(and a darned fine guy, too)

The speakers are experienced in their fields. The last time George Butler, who has vast experience with cemetery legal problems, spoke in Marshall on Arkansas Cemetery Law, questions lengthened a one-hour presentation into two hours. Dr. Stewart-Abernathy played a major role in saving and restoring an abandoned African-American cemetery in Pope County, using local organizations and federal/state grants. Jerry Hilliard was the Arkansas Archeological Survey's lead archeologist looking for lost graves on a to-be-developed site in Springdale, Arkansas. Jamie Lockhart is THE expert in Arkansas on technology to determine what is under the ground.

The above symposium will cost \$10 for all day or \$5 for half a day. Mr. Butler has prepared an abstract of Arkansas cemetery law and cases. This 78 page document is available at \$2 (printing cost) or a slightly larger version is available on line at: www.ancestorfair.us.

Seating is limited and although indications are that the topic is popular; we do not know how popular. Therefore, to ensure a seat one may send \$10 (or \$12 to include the Arkansas cemetery law abstract) or \$5 (half day) in check or money order to:

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**James J Johnston
Cemetery Symposium
2333 N East Oaks Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72703**

Please make checks/money orders payable to: Searcy County Historical Society.
Registration form attached; please indicate the names of the people who will attend.



For further information or updates you may contact:
James J Johnston, tel.
479/442-3691, email
<johnston@ipa.net> or at
the postal address above.

**Cemetery Symposium location:
672 Airport Road
Marshall, Arkansas**

FGS/AGS Conference News: Some last-minute conference Frequently Asked Questions

Paula Stuart Warren, CG
National Publicity Chair for the 2009 FGS/AGS Conference



It's just days till the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2009 Conference opens in Little Rock. Volunteers from FGS and from the host society, the Arkansas Genealogical Society, have been putting in a lot of hours to prepare a scintillating, educational, stimulating, exciting, fun, memorable, passionate and rewarding experience for registrants, speakers, and vendors. It's going to rock in Little Rock!

1. I haven't registered yet, can I still do that at the conference?

Definitely. Just visit the Registration Area in the Rotunda on the lower level of the Statehouse Convention Center on Tuesday, September 1st from 2:00-6:00 p.m. or anytime after 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday-Saturday. You may register for single days or all four days. Look for the line that covers on-site registration. Check out the full program and other details at the FGS Conference website <http://www.fgs.org/2009conference/>

2. I have pre-registered, what do I do when I arrive at the Statehouse Convention Center?

Go to the Registration Area to pick up your registration packet. See #1 for the hours. Look for the registration line that covers the first letter of your surname. If you are a

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conference speaker there will be a separate line for you. If you have a booth in the Exhibit Hall you have received separate info from the Exhibits Chair. If you pick up your materials on Tuesday, then you can walk a block to Historic Arkansas <http://www.arkansashistory.com/> to join other conference registrants at a free Ice Cream Social from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Enjoy a couple hours listening to music by “Lark in the Morning,” learning more about Arkansas history, and meeting other conference registrants.

3. What is in my registrant’s packet?

This contains your name tag which is your entry into the actual lecture and workshop sessions, an eco-friendly tote bag, tickets for meals you purchased, tickets for door prizes in the Exhibit Hall, the syllabus on CD, a Conference Guide, various flyers and offers, and some other items.

4. When will the Exhibit Hall be open?

The Exhibit Hall on the lower level of the Statehouse Convention Center will be open these hours. Let the browsing and shopping begin!

Thursday	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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5. I am not able to attend the conference, but may I visit the Exhibit Hall?

Yes! The Exhibit Hall is open to both registrants and non-registrants. If you change your mind and wish to attend lectures, you will need to register. Simply visit the Registration area and the helpful volunteers will sign you up.

6. I need to leave a message for someone. How do I do that?

Look for the bulletin board in the Conference Registration area in the Rotunda of the Statehouse Convention Center. If that person is staying in a hotel and you know that hotel, leave a message with the hotel operator. Information on Emergency Contact Information will be in your Conference Guide.



7. I have a ticket for a luncheon that I cannot use? What can I do with it?

At this point, FGS is not able to issue refunds. We had to guarantee and pay for the meals and other events already. You might post a note on the Conference Bulletin Board in the Registration Area. Pass the word to others at the conference that you have a ticket to sell or give away.

8. I still want to buy a banquet (or breakfast or luncheon) ticket. Are some available?

You may still register online until August 26th. After that date, you can check at the

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Registration Area to see if there are any unsold tickets. FGS may have a few available for each meal event. Check the Bulletin Board in the Registration area to see if anyone has an extra ticket to sell. Pass the word to folks at the conference and you might find one.

9. How will I know what room will have a specific lecture?

Each registrant receives a Conference Guide that has this info, maps of the Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center lecture rooms, the Exhibit Hall layout keyed to the list of exhibitors, and reminders about special events.

10. Food, Food, Food

Genealogists are also passionate about eating. Hopefully you have registered for at least some of the fun conference meals. Otherwise, you will find a concession stand in the Exhibit Hall that will be open for several hours each day, the hotels have restaurants, and the nearby River Market area is full of restaurants. No one will be starving for food, education, conversation, fun during conference week.

More questions? Check the FGS Conference News Blog www.fgsconferenceblog.org for additional important information. See you in a few days!

I have enjoyed writing for you over the last year and a half. I hope to meet you all at the conference. If you have Warren, Hatfield, or Cheek connections from Johnson, Newton, and nearby counties, please introduce yourself to me during the conference. You are kin to my children!



Paula Stuart Warren

Look for her at the FGS Conference and tell her how much you've enjoyed her articles in the AGS Ezine

Marion County Arkansas Heritage Society Book Sale

Marion County Arkansas Heritage Society
PO Box 761
Yellville, AR 72687

Announces a sale on some of their publications:

Marion County Arkansas 1890 Census

Hardbound-Indexed, Was \$45.00. Now \$30.00 + \$8.00 S & H

History Of Marion County, Arkansas

Hardbound-Indexed, Was \$75.00. Now \$45.00 + \$6.00 S & H.

Marion County, Arkansas, Her People In Pictures

Hardbound, Was \$40.00. Now \$30.00 + \$5.00 S & H.

Softbound, Was \$30.00, Now \$25.00 + \$5.00 S & H.

Marion County, Arkansas: Her People And Schools In Pictures

Hardbound, Was \$40.00. Now \$30.00 + \$5.00 S & H.

Softbound, Was \$40.00. Now \$25.00 + \$5.00 S & H.

The sale is for a limited time. If you're a Marion County fan, this is your opportunity to get these interesting books at a discount!

Direct inquiries to Sherry Berthot [sherryb@suddenlink.net]



We Had a Good Time at the Arkansas River Valley Ancestor Fair

The Arkansas River Valley Ancestor Fair held at Morrilton on August 1st was a delightful event! Old and new friends met and mingled. The kitchen served pinto beans and cornbread and that menu was a big success.



Bob Edwards and Whitney McLaughlin, AGS Board Members, told folks about our organization.



Gloria Futrell, Desmond Walls Allen, and Jan Davenport (left to right) had a wonderful time promoting the FGS Conference coming up in September in Little Rock.



Arkansas River Valley Ancestor Fair, continued

Voicey Cunningham Steward of Menifee shared her notebooks filled with information about African-American families in the Arkansas River Valley area—she's a treasure!



Jane Wilkerson and Brian Irby from the Arkansas History Commission were on hand to provide information about our state archives.

We're going to look for YOU next year!

Help Wanted: ARGenWeb County Coordinators

Betsy Mills, USGenWeb State Coordinator for Arkansas



Betsy Mills

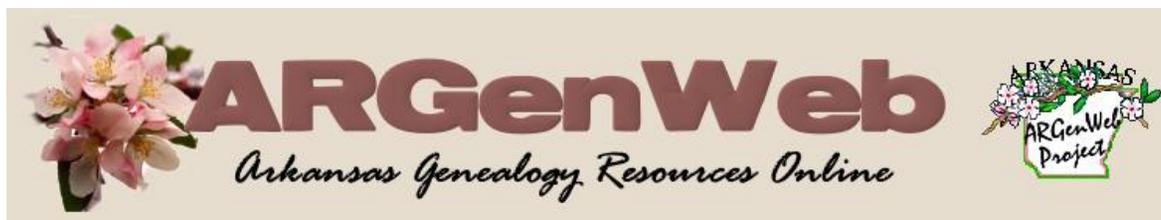
[ARGenWeb.net](http://www.argenweb.net) is a wonderful resource for genealogists. Dedicated volunteers manage websites for particular counties. And a few of those positions are vacant.

We now have these counties up for adoption in Arkansas: Arkansas, Crawford, Cross, Desha, Grant, Lee and Prairie counties.

If you are interested in becoming a County Coordinator, email me, Betsy Mills betsym@1starnet.com, the State Coordinator, and tell me your county of interest and your level of expertise with html (web page coding).

Rules for the websites are listed here: <http://www.argenweb.net/goldstar.htm>. And it also shows which counties are currently adoptable.

County Coordinators are responsible for creating and maintaining websites at the county level. Duties include striving to include as much local or topical reference and resource information as possible for their site, adding new and updated content regularly, and responding promptly to correspondence and questions from researchers.



StoryCorps is Coming to the FGS Conference in Little Rock

The latest Press Release by Paula Stuart-Warren tells about StoryCorps coming to the conference. This is another fabulous opportunity. She says that StoryCorps is "an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening." They will be at the conference recording our oral history. She says "Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to take home and share, and is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress."

Reservations are required. Contact Sara Thompson at storycorps@fgs.org or 501-320-5718 by September 1st. You can also visit the FGS Conference Blog for more details on this wonderful program: <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/2009/08/storycorps-is-coming-to-federation-of.html>



Even if you don't record oral history at the FGS Conference, there are helpful links on their website to assist you in gathering oral history from your relatives. Their "question generator" offers some really insightful inquiry suggestions.

To learn more about StoryCorps visit their website.
<www.storycorps.org>

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com –Thanks!

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

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](mailto:DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com) (DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com)

Missed an issue of the AGS Ezine? Check our online file of [back issues](http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm). (<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm>)

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