



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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## AGS Ezine

Volume 7, No. 1, January 2012

Susan G. Boyle, editor  
George Mitchell, list manager

### JOIN US!

If you are not a member of AGS, consider this your invitation to join.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member, look at the back of your *Arkansas Family Historian*. Your membership expires on the date printed under your name.

It may be time to renew your AGS membership dues!

Happy New Year! I hope the year 2012 is good to you. What used to be the future is now the present. Did our ancestors feel this way, back in the years we think of as so long ago? Certainly they would advise us to take advantage of every moment, every hour, every day and make the most of them. Surely they would tell us to prepare for our future, or lack thereof. Especially if they were the ones who didn't leave a will, or didn't record that deed, or failed to keep a journal or write a diary, or left the family Bible to be discarded. What do they wish we knew about them now? What will our descendants wish we had done to make us more alive to them?

Now is the time to organize your research so it will be usable by others in the future. This is the time to start writing your ancestor's stories and sharing them with known relatives by email, book, or letter. This is the time to reach out to unknown relatives or other researchers by publishing bits of your family's history in genealogical or historical quarterlies, magazines, or online formats. This is a good time to knock down some brick walls in your research by checking again in the many new resources available online. We know genealogy research never ends; it's never finished. Ensure that your research becomes a resource in the future.

Now is the time to join a genealogical society, national, state, county, or local, to become part of the genealogical community in which you can add your influence to guarantee preservation of and access to records important to genealogists. Let's not regret later that we didn't do the things we might have done to make a difference, both for our descendants and for the genealogical community as a whole.

## Coming Events

January 15, 2012

**Fayetteville Public Library**, Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War—A Scholar-led Discussion Series—*Making Sense of Shiloh*, 2 pm-3:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 479.856.7250.

January 23, 2012

**Saline County Library**, Benton, Arkansas. Robert Edwards will present a program at 6:30 pm on the federal Civil War prison at Camp Douglas in Illinois.

February 2-4, 2012

**RootsTech 2012**, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah; register at <http://rootstech.org> - \$149 until January 13

February 13, 2012

**Saline County Library**, Benton, Arkansas. The Genealogy and Local History Department will present *The Legacy of Harriet Tubman* by actress Deborah L. Wright of Hot Springs, Arkansas. 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

February 19, 2012

**Fayetteville Public Library**, Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War—*The Shape of War*, 2 pm-3:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 479.856.7250.

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## **Coming Events** (continued from page 2)

March 10, 2012

**Saline County Library**, Benton, Arkansas, Annual Genealogical Seminar featuring Mr. Gene Norris of the Cherokee Heritage Center. Call 501.778.4776 to register.

March 18, 2012

**Fayetteville Public Library**, 2 pm-3:30 pm, Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War—*War and Freedom*. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 479.856.7250.

March 24, 2012

**Central Arkansas Genealogical and Historical Society** Spring Workshop, Darragh Center, Central Arkansas Library, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, featuring Patricia Walls Stamm, 9 am to 3:30 pm, \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members.

April 2, 2012

**Release of the 1940 US census.** It will be free on Ancestry.com until the end of 2013 and always free on the National Archives site <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/>

April 21, 2012

**Arkansas Genealogical Society**, Free Workshop, Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, AR; “Caught In The Middle.....Bridging the Gap Between Fundamentals and Technology”

## **The Norman Historic Preservation Program, Inc., of Montgomery County, Arkansas**

In December, AGS received a letter from the Norman Historic Preservation Program, Inc., acquainting us with their accomplishments and efforts. This group is setting a very good example for the rest of us, and they have set the bar very high. Not only has this “very small non-profit organization in western Arkansas” raised more than \$300,000 through donations and fundraising, but they have bought an old endangered school building and renovated it to house a public museum and genealogy library. They produce two very good looking brochures: one provides an overview of the school building and museum, and the other advertises the books they publish.

In 2000 this small group purchased the old Norman High School, originally Caddo Valley Academy, which had been neglected for more than thirty years. Norman Historic School is listed on The National Register of Historic Places and appears to be a beautiful two-story building constructed of native stone with brick trim around the windows and doors. Museum exhibits include a one-room school, sawmill type shotgun house, livery and farm room, milk barn, vintage office, and 1890s laundry with a wooden washing machine. The property includes an overnight rental cottage. Visitors are welcome to tour the building on their own or enjoy a free guided tour. It is possible to experience classes in the one-room school, see Caddo Indian artifacts and tools, or watch spinning wheel demonstrations, pottery making, Dutch oven cooking, lye soap and hominy making, jam and jelly cooking, and bread baking. The group says it can provide meals to groups of 10 to 100 persons. There are two shops on site, Minie’s Treasures and The Girls Room, profits of which help to fund maintenance and renovation. The building is open Tuesday and Friday, April 1 to November 1 or by appointment. Groups should call ahead.

Of special interest to family historians, some of the Program’s fundraising is a result of publishing and selling genealogy-based books. The publications brochure contains photos of covers and helpful descriptions, plus prices and shipping costs. All the books appear to have been written/compiled by Shirley Shewmake Manning, who is also

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**Norman, Montgomery County, Arkansas** (continued from page 4)

the Program president. Titles include the following:

*Norman Centennial 1907-2007*, 96 pages, \$10, \$3 shipping

*Norman in Review*, 132 pages, \$10, \$3 shipping

*Caddo Valley Academy 1921-1930, Norman High School 1931-1971*, 224 pages, \$10, \$5 shipping

*Snapshots* (2500 photos of Norman and Black Springs Grade School students), 214 pages, \$25, \$5 shipping

*Montgomery County Newspaper Abstracts 1891-1939*, 428 pages, \$35, \$5 shipping

*Norman High School Before and After* booklet, 60 pages, \$15, \$2 shipping

*Family Scrapbook*, containing 1600 family photos, grouped by community, covering the entire county. Every photo is identified, with additional information when known. It is 450 pages, \$40, \$5 shipping.

The group is making a SPECIAL OFFER to libraries who order all the books on the flyer—they will ship free. The books can be ordered by writing to NHPP, Inc., PO Box 226, Norman, AR 71960. For visiting, the physical address is 234 Hattie St. The group can be reached by email at [NHPP@HUGHES.NET](mailto:NHPP@HUGHES.NET) and by phone at 870.334.3188. See their website at [www.NORMANARKANSAS.com](http://www.NORMANARKANSAS.com)

A paragraph from the Project's letter is worth sharing here:

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Norman, Montgomery County, Arkansas (continued from page 5)

*Our genealogy roots reach far beyond this small town. We were populated by Southern families in search of free land, mainly coming from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Many were on their way to Texas, but stopped off, or were turned back due to Indian uprisings, and landed in our county. Many people picked cotton in Texas, tomatoes in Indiana, or worked in the timber industry in Oklahoma, while maintaining roots in Montgomery county. Most of our people moved around the county as timber operations moved. They followed sawmills into Scott County, Arkansas. After that section was cut out, they moved to Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, and California. Some went to Michigan to work in the auto industry. Today, the descendants of these lumber people are scattered all over the U.S. There are undoubtedly some in your area. That is why we think you will be interested in purchasing some or all of these books.*

It would be well worth your time to take a look at the Project's website or visiting its museum and library. This is clearly an ambitious, hard-working group with good ideas and a firm grip on their history and connection to the outside world. We could all learn a lot from them about working together to preserve and showcase local and family history. Their slogan says it all: "Building a future through preservation."

From *Paula's Genealogical Eclectica*, Posted by Paula Stuart-Warren, CG TM ,16 November 2012

Paula Stuart-Warren's blogspot can be accessed at <http://paulastuartwarren.blogspot.com>

## Guide to using Archives

The Society of American Archivists has a helpful online guide [\*Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research\*](#). It has many great tips for potential users. I have read most of it and felt like I was reading my own advice when I teach about the gems found in archives and special collections departments. It's worth reading.

Several entries from the Table of Contents

[What Are Archives and How Do They Differ from Libraries?](#)

[Types of Archives](#)

[Finding and Evaluating Archives](#)

[Planning to Visit an Archives](#)

[Typical Usage Guidelines in Archival Repositories](#)

[Visiting an Archives](#)

There is also a [PDF version](#).

## **Ordering Family History Library Microfilms** by Susan Boyle

If you, like I, do much of your research on Family History Library microfilm ordered in to your local Family History Center, you will know by now that you don't have to actually go to the FHC anymore to order your film and pay for it. The new film ordering system that FamilySearch has introduced allows you to order film on your own computer at home or any computer in the world with access to the internet. There is a film ordering page online that you can access on the FamilySearch website. You will have to establish an account with a password and you will log in to that account to order film or to check the status of your film orders. You choose the Family History Center to which you want the film sent and you may pay for the film order with a credit card or by using PayPal. When the film arrives at the Family History Center you indicated, you will receive an email that the status of your film has changed. You log back into your account on FamilySearch and go to *My Orders* and view the individual microfilm numbers to see the status updates. It will tell you the film has been received, meaning it has arrived at the Family History Center.

One advantage of the new system is that the researcher actually has the film for 90 days on a short term loan, without the previous mailing time on each end cutting into your viewing time with the film. You may renew the film order to keep it indefinitely.

Once you become accustomed to it, the whole system works much easier. However, it places the responsibility for the film orders firmly with the person who orders the film. No one is going to make sure you type in the correct film number or make arrangements to renew it when it is set to go back. Having the film for a longer period is a huge advantage over the old system.

To look at the new film ordering process, press control and click this link. [online film ordering page](#)

## From NEHGS The Weekly Genealogist

If you belong to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society and receive their *Weekly Genealogist* newsletter you will have seen the following. They usually highlight some libraries and/or databases around the country, and I was very pleased to see the Pine Bluff Library featured. On December 21 in Vol. 14, No. 51, they addressed two Texas libraries with obituary databases online as well as the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Public Library. See their comments below.

Pine Bluff, which is located in central Arkansas, is the county seat of Jefferson County. The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library has made an obituary database available on its website. They have indexed all deaths and obituaries in Jefferson County newspapers in the library's collections. Records in the index date back to 1866. It should be noted that there are gaps in the collection to 1899. The database includes the following newspapers: *Pine Bluff Commercial*, *Pine Bluff Graphic*, *Pine Bluff News*, *Pine Bluff Press-Eagle*, and *White Hall Journal*, as well as some little-known publications such as *The Pine Bluff Dispatch*, *The Negro Spokesman*, *The Jefferson Republican* and *The Weekly Echo*. Obituaries from the *Pine Bluff Commercial* and the *White Hall Journal* continue to be added to the database as they are received.

This database is searchable by name (surname, full name, or even nickname) or by name and year. Up to 1,000 records will be displayed in the search results at a time.

Data fields in the initial search results include name, date of the obituary, and the source. Click on the name link to access a record that also includes the page number on which the obituary appears. Click on the Request Photocopy link to learn how to obtain a copy of an obituary from the library for a fee.

[Pine Bluff / Jefferson County Library, Arkansas](#)

## **From the National Genealogical Society**

Registration is now open for the NGS 2012 Family History Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The conference will take place 9-12 May 2012 at the Duke Energy Convention Center. For additional information and to register online, go to [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee\\_registration](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee_registration)

There are three conference hotels this year, all within one block of the convention center. Visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/accommodations> for detailed information about the hotels.

The 2012 conference will include programs for all skill levels of research experience and will feature tracks on military records, methodology, ethnic research, migration, photos, and more. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and seventy lectures on a wide variety of topics. The conference registration brochure, with complete details, is online as a pdf file and the lecture schedule is available on the NGS website in a searchable format (<http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2012Program.cfm>).

New at this conference will be four hands-on workshops and a Friday night reception in honor of the NGS Quarterly's 100th anniversary.

An exhibit area with more than one hundred exhibitors will be open Wednesday through Saturday and will feature the latest in genealogical software, online research providers, and DNA testing services.

Some workshops have limited seating, so register early!

We look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati.

Regards,

NGS Staff and Board

## Meet Our AGS Board Members: Vincent Anderson

Vincent Anderson was born in Mountain Home, Arkansas, and raised on the Arkansas/Missouri state line. He graduated from Gainesville High School, in Gainesville, Missouri, in 1983. In that same year, he began serving in the U. S. Air Force, stationed at Little Rock AFB, as an instructor in Parachutes, Oxygen Systems, and Crash Survival.

Vincent has graduated with two A. A. Degrees from North Arkansas College, in Harrison, Arkansas, and Arkansas State University at Mountain Home. In 2004, he graduated from MBI Hebrew Yeshiva with a Bachelor in Biblical Arts. In 2006, Vincent graduated from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, with a Bachelor of Science in Education with certification in Grades 4-8 in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and a Pre-AP Certification in Mathematics. He is certified as an EAST Facilitator in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Education. In 2007, Vincent was named Arkansas State University - Mountain Home Alumni of the Year.

Vincent is a former columnist of the weekly "Looking Back in History" column in *The Baxter Bulletin*, in Mountain Home, Arkansas. He has published articles for newspapers and historical societies in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Vincent is currently employed at the Donald W. Reynolds Library in Mountain Home and works as the Reference Librarian and Teacher. He is the current president of the Baxter County Genealogical & Historical Society. Vincent is a guest lecturer and teacher on the History of the Ozarks and Genealogy to civic clubs and public schools. He also enjoys researching the Ozark region and writing a blog on the Internet entitled Ozarks' History.

([www.ozarkshistory.blogspot.com](http://www.ozarkshistory.blogspot.com))



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## **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [susanb1996@aol.com](mailto:susanb1996@aol.com) –Thanks!

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

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