



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

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JOIN US!

If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[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!

December is going to be a quiet month in terms of genealogy events, but the always enjoyable Historic Washington Christmas and Candlelight and a civil war lecture or two might tempt you. In between shopping, baking goodies, wrapping gifts and wishing good cheer, you might find some free moments to enter information in your genealogy management program, clear stacks of notes, sort papers, store photocopies, organize files, and browse that new website you've heard about.

You may be planning on traveling for your holidays and perhaps will spend time with family or visit ancestral homes. Remember to keep your family history in mind and ask the questions you have neglected to ask before. Or make a point to inquire about historic photos a relative may have. Take copies of family research you have completed to share with others. Perhaps they can add something to your information. At the very least, distributing multiple copies of your data is a safeguard against loss.

Whatever your holiday and however you celebrate, may the time be peaceful and joyous for you.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has been energized by its 50th anniversary celebration and is gearing up for an ambitious genealogical year in 2013. We hope you will join in promoting genealogical research of Arkansas families. Enjoy your holidays and we will see you in the new year.

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Tidbits –

Southeastern Native American Documents, 1730-1842, contains approximately 2,000 documents and images relating to the native American population of the Southeastern United States from the collections of the [University of Georgia Libraries](#), the [University of Tennessee at Knoxville Library](#), the [Frank H. McClung Museum](#), the [Tennessee State Library and Archives](#), the [Tennessee State Museum](#), the [Museum of the Cherokee Indian](#), and the [LaFayette-Walker County Library](#). The documents are comprised of letters, legal proceedings, military orders, financial papers, and archaeological images relating to Native Americans in the Southeast.

This site includes historical materials that may contain offensive language or negative stereotypes reflecting the culture or language of a particular period or place. These items are presented as part of the historical record. Please see [Issues of Cultural Sensitivity](#) for more information.

Coming Events

December 1, 2012

Historic Washington State Park, 1-8 pm, 26th Annual Christmas & Candlelight, daylight tours until 5, luminaries 5-8; Christmas buffet at William's Tavern 11 am to 8 pm.; horse-drawn surrey rides will be available.

December 1 and 2, 2012

Anniversary of the Battle of Prairie Grove, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, re-enactment and other events. For information call 479.846.2990 or email holly.houser@arkansas.gov

December 6, 2012

The Spence Family and the Civil War in 1862, brown-bag lunch lecture by Mark Christ at The Old State House Museum in Little Rock, noon to 1 pm. Free and open to the public. Bring a sack lunch. Water and soft drinks will be provided. For more information go to www.oldstatehouse.com and click on Visit and then on Events Calendar.

December 13, 2012

Saline County Public Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Dr. William Shea will speak about *The Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, 150 Years Later*. For information email Steve.Purdue@Saline.lib.ar.us, call 501.778.4766, or visit the website at www.salinecountylibrary.org, click on Genealogy/Local History and then on Newsletter and Events.

Annual Genealogy for You Seminar at Benton Library

Plan to be at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library's annual Genealogy For You Seminar on Saturday, 9 March 2013. The featured speaker will be George G. Morgan, nationally known genealogy lecturer from Tampa, Florida. We're telling you now because registration begins this month.

The topics covered will be:

Session 1 *Getting the Most from Ancestry Library Edition*

Session 2 *New Ways to Research Our Roots*

Session 3 *Bits about Obits: Reading between the Lines*

Session 4 *Alternate Records You May Have Never Considered*

The library is located at 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas 72015. The seminar is free and open to the public. You will have time to have lunch on your own. There are many restaurants in the area and out along I-30.

To register for the seminar call the library at 501.778.4766.

News from the Arkansas History Commission

New Forms and Fees for Arkansas History Commission Go into Effect December 1

LITTLE ROCK - Beginning December 1, 2012 new order forms and a restructured fee schedule will go into effect for all requested photocopies from the Arkansas History Commission. The new forms are available at http://www.ark-ives.com/research/order_forms.aspx

The restructured forms and fee schedule make the ordering process easier for patrons to request copies of county records, newspaper articles, manuscript material, pension records, military records, microfilm rolls, and photographs from the Commission's holdings.

The new fee schedule reflects changes in costs due to fluctuating supply costs for printing of different formats. Most fees remained the same, with decreasing costs for newspaper article copies and increased costs for microfilm rolls.

The Arkansas History Commission is the official state archives, with research facilities in Little Rock, Powhatan, and Washington, Arkansas.

Contact Jane Hooker at jane.hooker@arkansas.gov or 501.682.6900.

Arkansas History Commission
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
www.ark-ives.com
state.archives@arkansas.gov

Medical Licensure in Arkansas

In response to a query about country doctors on the Arkansas History Discussion Group List-serve [ARHIST-L@LISTSERV.UARK.EDU], Amanda Saar of the UAMS Historical Research Center posted the following summary of the history of the medical licensing laws for the state of Arkansas.

Medical Licensure in Arkansas

A very good description of the history of the licensing situation in Arkansas is given in W. David Baird's *Medical Education in Arkansas 1879-1978*. (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1979)

Below is a timeline, based on the information in Baird.

1831 - The Arkansas Legislature passed legislation for licensure in Arkansas. **Gov. John Pope vetoed.**

1881 - First law enacted, requiring registration by county, with the records kept in the county clerk's office.

1893 - Licensure law passed creating state board.

1895 - Repealed 1893 licensure law and restored county examining board system. Remained in effect until 1903.

1903 - Licensure law passed, required 3 boards, each to offer exam. [Feb 17, 1903]

1909 - General Assembly made a diploma from a recognized medical school a prerequisite to taking a licensing exam. [Act 219, 1909]

1929: Law passed requiring candidates for a license to practice medicine in Arkansas to first pass an examination in the basic sciences. This law had its origins in the 1920's, when many different types of medical practitioners competed with "regular" doctors for public acceptance and recognition. This board was eventually known as the Basic Sciences and Healing Arts Board, and all who wished to practice any form of medicine in Arkansas had to take the exam.

[Note: One of the oddities of the whole licensing situation for physicians nationwide was the separation of physicians into three groups, based on their approach to treatment. Arkansas as well as other states had an examining board for each group:

Medical Licensure (continued)

homeopaths (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeopathy#The_principle_of_medical_similars), eclectic (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclectic_Medicine) and allopaths - which were most like modern day practitioners.]

1955: The Arkansas General Assembly abolished the 52 year old system of medical licensure whereby eclectic, homeopathic and regular physicians had been certified by their different boards. (less than 100 eclectics and few if any homeopaths continued to practice in the state) A single Arkansas State Medical Board composed of nine members was created. It was authorized to license physicians to practice medicine within the state.

1959: Original law changed to make the administration of the basic sciences exam a State Healing Arts Board.

1977: State Legislature abolished Healing Arts Board.

Why is this knowledge important? From 1929-1977, any person wanting to practice medicine in Arkansas had to have had interaction with both of these boards. For many, records of both boards have survived, and can be helpful.

The Basic Sciences and Healing Arts Board Records (1929-1977) are housed in the HRC (Distribution Center) with the index at the HRC proper. These records consist mostly of applications to take the exam, complete with photographs and are also available on microfilm at the Arkansas History Commission. These are very useful for background information.

The Arkansas State Medical Board has applications for licenses going back before 1900. In most cases (but not all), each applicant did receive a license, and those licenses were sent to the applicant, but the application, with some background information, remained with the agency handling the examination. Contact the Arkansas State Medical Board at 296-1802 or <http://www.armedicalboard.org> If anyone has any questions about the above, please let me know.

Amanda Saar, Head

Historical Research Center

UAMS Library

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Generous Genealogists – Free Genealogy Research and Support

My thanks go out to *UpFront with NGS* for alerting me to a new website you might want to use as a way to volunteer and/or as a source for genealogy research help.

Generous Genealogists at <http://generousgenealogists.com> is an interactive website started by a very talented group “working to give back to the genealogical community.” They have come together to replace the former *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* that died with its founder a year ago, and they will be happy if all genealogists join in to help the volunteer effort.

The new site offers assistance in many ways. Volunteers will provide free research support, document look-up and more. Coaches will provide hints and tips for research. Monitored brick wall forums will address genealogical questions in a public way. Locality categories of questions cover much of the world.

You are requested to register to have input and of course to volunteer if you have the knowledge or can do look-ups in a certain locale or area of research. The site’s Social Contract professes to provide a free website and free research works without a fee. But they also expect the person asking for help to reimburse the helpful Generous Genealogist for copies, printing fees, postage, film or video tape, parking fees, and mileage limited to the US IRS standard mileage rates for Business. In other words, while not reimbursing for the volunteer’s time, you will reimburse for out-of-pocket expenses. All information will be posted free to everyone and not be restricted in any way.

It is possible to make donations to help finance site operations and development.

Take a look at this site and explore it thoroughly. It promises to be the way we can all come together to form an engaged “good Samaritan” genealogical community.

SeniorNet—Bringing Wisdom to the Information AGE

SeniorNet is an international non-profit organization headquartered in Virginia. Its goal is to provide older adults education for and access to computer technology to enhance their lives and enable them to share their knowledge and wisdom. SeniorNet teaches seniors (age 50 plus) to use computers and the Internet at over 180 Learning Centers worldwide. For our purposes, they often provide genealogy classes.

National SeniorNet is funded by membership fees, Learning Center assessments, donations by individuals, and the generous sponsorship of many companies. National SeniorNet dues are \$30. Go to www.seniornet.org for more information.

SeniorNet volunteers are older adults who are already familiar with computer operations. They teach other seniors, most of whom have never worked with a computer. The training classes cover fundamentals, introduction to computers, word processing, file management, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, using the internet, using databases, communicating through Email, Facebook and Twitter, plus instruction in software programs for money management, genealogy, and graphics.

Using central Arkansas as an example, the sponsors are UAMS Reynolds Institute on Aging, Microsoft Corporation, and AT&T. Membership in national SeniorNet is not a prerequisite for enrollment in the Little Rock Learning Center. Classes are held at the Reynolds Institute on Aging, where parking is free and convenient. Courses consist of eight two-hour classes meeting twice a week for four weeks. Course fees are \$45 for individuals or \$75 for couples.

The genealogy classes include a Legacy 7 class for compiling family history, Digital Photography, Print Artist Graphics, File Management, and Photo Editing. They also held a Mac IPhoto workshop in November.

Similar classes will be offered in 2013. For information call the voice mail box at 501.603.1262, visit www.littlerockseniornet.com, or email seniornetjoan2@gmail.com. If you are looking for help with genealogy computing, look for SeniorNet in your area.

From The National Archives, UK: Tips for visiting archives

A successful research trip to an archives with the end result of finding valuable family history information requires that you make the necessary preparations. Below are some helpful suggestions in that regard from a blog of The National Archives in the UK. Some of these suggestions will apply to use of libraries, historical societies, and even courthouses as well.

Posted by [Andrew Janes](#) in [Records](#), [Website](#)

Step 1: Preliminary research

Doing some research in advance is always worthwhile. It can help you work out what records will be useful to you, save you from wasting time during your visit, or even stop you from making an unnecessary journey.

As I mentioned in a previous blog post, the best place to start your research is usually online. Many archives now have a catalogue and other useful information on their websites, and you might even find that the records you want to see have been digitised.

Depending on your topic, you could also find it useful to look at some books or other printed sources too. If you're going to a library to look for books, don't forget to check whether the library subscribes to any useful electronic reference sources as well.

Another useful form of preliminary research can be to contact the archives that you intend to visit. Do take a quick look at the institution's website before writing an email or picking up the phone, though. You might find that your question has already been answered there.

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Tips for visiting archives continued

Step 2: Preparing for your visit

It's worth checking the following points when planning your visit. They may seem obvious, but it's surprising how many people forget them.

- Where is the archives located and how will you travel there?
- What are the opening days and times?
- Do you need to book in advance? (This varies from place to place.)
- Do you need to bring ID with you? (Very often, you'll need two separate proofs of identity and address)

Most archives have all of this information on their websites but for some small archives you may need to contact staff to ask.

Although nearly all archives allow you to use a laptop or tablet computer, it's a good idea to bring a notebook and pencil with you too. (It must be a pencil: you won't be allowed to use a pen.) If you've made some notes during your preliminary research, don't forget to bring those as well.

It's also worth checking whether you're allowed to bring a camera with you. Many archives will allow you to use your own camera to take photos of records, sometimes for a small fee. Others don't allow cameras, usually because there are significant copyright or other restrictions on making copies of the records that they hold.

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Tips for visiting archives continued

Step 3: When you arrive

Archives vary a great deal in size and in how they operate so it isn't always easy to know what to expect on your first visit, but the following points apply to most archives.

Original records are nearly always kept in secure storage, not on shelves that you can browse through yourself. A member of staff will bring the records that you want to see to a reading room for you to look at them. The system for ordering records and how long it takes to fetch them are different in each archives, depending on its size and resources, and on how far away the reading room is from the storage areas.

Sometimes you will already have identified exactly what records you want to see during step 1. Other times it can be less straightforward, and you might need to spend some time looking at paper catalogues or indexes before you're sure what records you need.

All archives have strict rules in place to protect the security and wellbeing of the records in their care, and to provide a comfortable research environment for you and for other visitors. You won't be allowed to take food and drink, bags, pens, erasers or sharp objects into the reading room, and you should work quietly to avoid disturbing other people.

It's very important to handle original records carefully. You don't normally need to wear gloves but it is often necessary to use special blocks or weights to support the records while you're reading them.

Throughout your visit, a member of staff will never be far away. Staff can't do your research for you, but they can give you some advice about the records, show you how to place orders or explain the reading room rules. If you're not sure what to do, please ask!

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! susanb1996@aol.com –Thanks!

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