



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 14 No. 9 September 2019

Jane A. Wilkerson, editor
Brandon Ryan, list manager

Coming Events

September 12, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Greene County Library, Legacy Room, Paragould.

September 14, 2019

Arkansas State Archives, *Opa! A History of Greek Foodways*, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pulaski Technical College, 13000 Interstate 30, Little Rock. Visit <http://archives.arkansas.gov/> for more information

September 23, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *As Much as the Water-How Steamboats Shaped Arkansas*, speaker Kay Lundgren, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

October 10, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

October 18-19, 2019

AGS Fall Seminar, Benton Event Center, Benton, Friday Speaker, TBA and Saturday Speaker, Judy G. Russell. Visit <https://www.agsgenealogy.org/> for more information.

October 24-26, 2019

RootsTech Conference will be held in London, England. For more information go to <https://www.rootstech.org/London?cid=bl-fsup-8055>

National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Announce Merger

In a historic move, the boards of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) have announced the intent to merge by October 1, 2020. The two organizations, both non-profit leaders in the dynamic genealogy industry, will form one consolidated group that will continue to operate as the National Genealogical Society. The announcement was made at the FGS conference in Washington, D.C. August 21.

Leaders of both organizations believe this merger will serve the genealogy community by improving support of both individual members and societies in the pursuit of genealogical excellence. Each group will have separate conventions in 2020, but will unite for a convention in 2021. FGS is set to meet in Kansas City in 2020, and NGS will meet in Salt Lake City.

The structure of NGS will be modified to increase functions that support genealogical societies and family organizations. Digitization projects of genealogical importance such as the War of 1812 pensions will continue.

Faye Stallings, President of FGS, said: "We are excited about this opportunity to combine with a premier organization that has been in operation since 1903." Ben Spratling, President of NGS, said, "We look forward to continuing the strong legacy of FGS as a 'gathering point' for family historians and societies all across the nation."

Coming Events

November 14, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

November 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Publishing & Enjoying Your Genealogy Work*, speaker Hank Klein, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

December 12, 2019

Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

September 2-5, 2020

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

KATV Archive: David and Barbara Pryor

Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas in August made available the first collection of searchable digitized film and videotape from KATV, the ABC television affiliate in Little Rock, for online use. <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu/project.php?thisProject=16>

Genealogists often think of print or still photo resources when they set up research plans, but video collections are becoming more valuable every day in fleshing out the lives of ancestors. Video that shows how relatives looked and sounded will be especially useful for descendants and extended family members.

KATV began broadcasting in 1953 when news footage was captured on film. The station later transitioned to video. During nearly 70 broadcasting years, it amassed more than 26,000 hours of news footage from across the state and donated it to the PryorCenter in 2009. Digitization began in 2018. Former News Director Jim Pitcock created the KATV News archive. Original handwritten log sheets for the restored video files are available.

Searches for persons, places, events will likely be most common initially. The digitization and rollout of visual information is ongoing, and UA instructions say "please continue to check back frequently for new postings from this historical archive." As Executive Director William Schwab of the Pryor Center said, "I can't think of a single resource that will be more valuable to researchers, students, and anyone who wants to revisit Arkansas people and events from the past 60 years – and maybe even see themselves as part of those events."

Archives Director and State Historian Retires



Dr. Richter Arkansas State Archives Director and State Historian, retired after second stint in the position. Dr. Richter, who just finished chemotherapy and radiation, suffered a serious wreck in May. After careful thought, Richter decided it was necessary to concentrate on her own health.

Under Dr. Richter's second tenure, the archives increased their outreach efforts, have worked with several counties on preserving their records, and began a project to create a new website. Volunteer participation quadrupled and donations also increased 71 percent.

The donations included, the family papers of longtime Director Dr. John L. Ferguson and the United States Western District of Arkansas Court Records.

Dr. Richter, also began an update of the Arkansas State Archives research room. New Digital micro-film readers have already been introduced and soon the old will be retired. In the archives research room or at home, individuals will be able to enjoy a forthcoming upgrade of the Arkansas Digital Archives that will feature an initial 21,000 images and a website that will eventually enable research with more precision. They can also see grant funded digitized 100,000 plus Arkansas newspaper pages at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> .

Dr. Richter served as state historian and director of the Arkansas State Archives from 2005-2012, and 2018-2019. The primary archives facility is in Little Rock, with the Northeast Regional Archives (NEARA) in Powhatan and the Southwest Regional Archives (SARA) at Old Washington. She will be missed by all.

For now Julienne Crawford will serve as interim director.

AR GENEALOGY SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY WRITING

WORKSHOPS

In partnership with UA Little Rock's Department of Rhetoric & Writing

All workshops are located at UA-Little Rock's Writing Center from 1-4:30 PM

*To register contact Sherry Rankins-Robertson at sjrobertson@ualr.edu
20 spots available in each workshop | \$10 AGS registration fee per workshop*

JUNE
29



Writing About Family Members, Places, and Events

This workshop will offer a writing activity about family members, places, or events, strategies for beginning the process of recording family stories, and practical tips to maintain daily writing practices. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

JULY
13



Celebrating Family and Food

This workshop will showcase writing about food-related memories and family celebrations. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop along with favorite family recipes!

AUG
17



Sharing Family History for Special Occasions

This workshop will teach participants to write stories that celebrate special occasions with family and friends such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

SEPT
07



Writing Obituaries

This workshop will demonstrate strategies for writing tributes that are interesting, engaging, and perhaps even humorous. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

OCT
05



Publishing Your Family History

This workshop will cover various kinds of cost effective digital publishing methods that can easily reach a large audience.



Arkansas Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Seminar Registration Form

October 18-19, 2019

**Benton Events Center
17322 I-30 North Benton, AR**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

email: _____

Registration Fee

A syllabus is guaranteed for those registered by September 17

_____ \$20 Friday Night Only

_____ \$40 Saturday Only (includes a box lunch)

_____ \$55 Friday & Saturday (includes Saturday's box lunch)

_____ \$25 (AGS Membership - New and Renewing)

_____ Total Enclosed

Make Check Payable to AGS and mail to:

AGS Fall Conference Registration

P O Box 26374

Little Rock AR 72221-6374

Administrative Stuff

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