



AGS Ezine

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Coming Events

March 21, 2020

Special Workshop: Cancelled Due to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

More information coming soon!
CALs, Darragh Center, 100 Rock Street,
Little Rock. In coordination with
the [Ulster Historical Foundation](#)

May 2, 2020

2020 AGS Spring Workshop: Cancelled Due to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

More information coming soon!
Old Washington State Park
In coordination with the [Arkansas State Archives](#)

October 16-17, 2020

2020 AGS Fall Seminar

Benton Event Center, Benton Arkansas. For more information go to
<https://www.agsgenealogy.org/>
<https://www.agsgenealogy.org/>

Genealogists Maximize Research Offerings During Isolation

As the isolation period has created an opportunity to delve into genealogy projects with more uninterrupted time, genealogists like Lisa Louise Cooke (Genealogy Gems) have created new programming to expand genealogy horizons.

Cooke, slated to be the featured speaker at the AGS fall seminar October 17 in Benton, has created "Elevenes With Lisa," first on Facebook and now YouTube, in addition to her podcasts.

Different weekly topics are explored, such as how to organize genealogy research, presented April 30. The show is available live, usually at 11 a.m. Thursdays, and then in video. There are also show notes.



Meanwhile, Legacy Family Tree Webinars is offering free daily webinars in May, as they did in April. The company says viewership is up by 69% in the last month, and has increased 258% percent since last year at this time. Sundays are for methodology, Mondays cover DNA, Tuesdays are for ethnic genealogy, Wednesdays are for tech, Thursdays cover "Around the Globe," etc. For more information, please check familytreewebinars.com.

Many archives, genealogy/historical organizations, and libraries are offering free webinars during this period when many cannot be open to the public. Check to see what your personal favorites are doing.

Exploring Old Street Names

By Dr. Wendy Richter

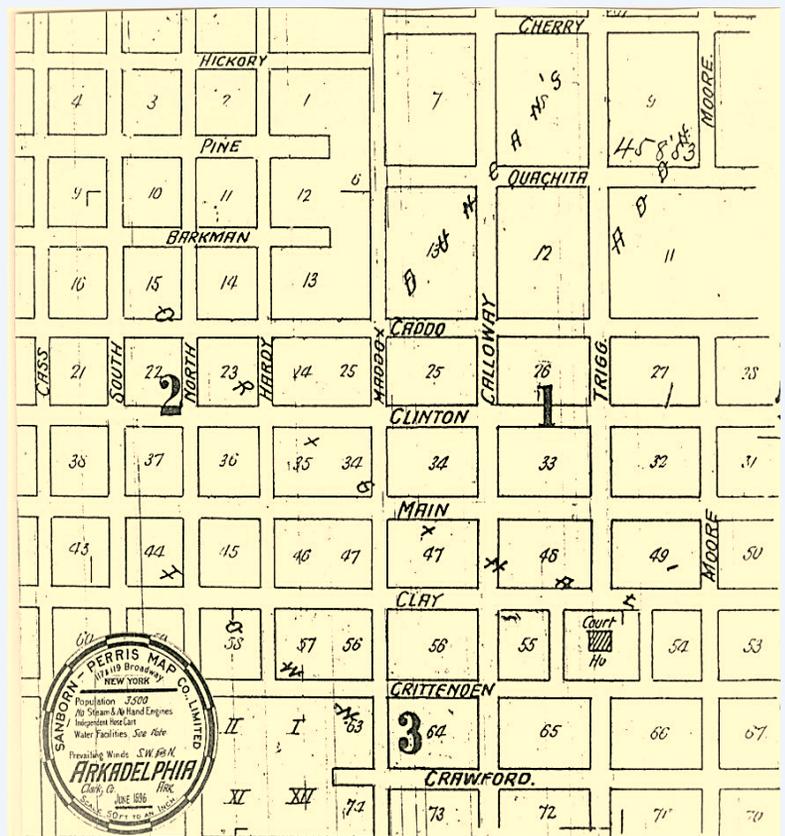
Many researchers enjoy tracing ancestors' whereabouts in order to document and/or actually visit the places where those family members once lived and worked. However, roadblocks often surface when street names discovered in older records are non-existent today. A look back at old maps and studying a town's history can be helpful in filling the gaps. In many cases, streets were named for town's founders and pioneers, so an exploration of those names can also reveal valuable information about an area's history.

For example, many have experienced confusion about "Valley Street" in Hot Springs (Garland County), situated between mountains, which served as the town's main thoroughfare and center of business activity. Valley Street is mentioned in many records and nineteenth-century communications. Today, there is indeed a Valley Street, but it no longer includes the downtown business area. Now "Central Avenue" runs in front of the spa's world-famous historic Bath House Row and follows Scenic Arkansas Highway 7. The Valley Street name was changed to Central Avenue decades ago, years before the memory of anyone living today. So, researchers attempting to locate the precise physical location of an ancestor's home or business must take that into account.

An examination of old street names can provide background about a town's development in addition to simply finding locations. Local history publications exist as a rich source for such information. Many streets in Arkadelphia (Clark County) experienced name changes, so it is a good example to illustrate the point. The 2013 edition of the *Clark County Historical Journal* (published by the Clark County Historical Association) contains an article with an explanation of the town's earliest street names. Most of the town's oldest east-west streets still bear their original names, including Barkman Street, named for pioneer Jacob Barkman, who has also been called the "Father of Clark County." Caddo Street has traditionally been among the town's longest streets, running west from the Ouachita River all the way to its intersection with Pine Street in the west end of town. It was named for the Caddo Indians who once inhabited the area. City fathers also utilized the names of trees for Arkadelphia streets from the earliest days, among them being Hickory, Pecan, Cherry, Walnut, and Pine.

A look at Arkadelphia street names no longer in use offers additional historical background about the town's development. First Street was originally called Blakely, for Adam Blakely, a blacksmith who may have arrived as early as 1810 and was among the first men to permanently settle in the area. In fact, Arkadelphia was called Blakelytown until the name was changed to Arkadelphia about 1840. Albert G. Johnston and Samuel Moore, young surveyors from Tennessee, arrived about 1838 and became owners of much of the land that now makes up downtown Arkadelphia. Third Street was called Moore for many years, and Main Street was called Johnston. Fourth Street was named Trigg, in honor of another early family. In fact, James Trigg is credited by many with coming up with the name "Arkadelphia," when the name was changed from Blakelytown. Fifth Street was called Callaway. John S.T. Callaway arrived in the area with his large family before 1820. Many members of the Callaway family have served the county in various official capacities including county judge, coroner, and surveyor. Benjamin Maddox came to the town in the late 1830s and purchased many acres west of Tenth Street and established what was called the Maddox Addition to Arkadelphia. "Maddox Addition" appears frequently in deed records as part of property descriptions. Until the time of the Civil War, his home stood at the site of Rose Hill Cemetery, and what is now Sixth Street was named Maddox in his honor. Seventh Street was called Hardy, for H.K. Hardy, area attorney and land speculator. Tenth was Cass, so named for national political figure Lewis Cass, who helped in achieving statehood for Arkansas and his own Michigan in 1836.

In addition to consulting local history publications, explore a town's layout on old maps and compare to a newer or current one. Among the best for this would be what are commonly called "Sanborn maps," many of which are available online or in archival facilities. The 1896 map of a portion of Arkadelphia reveals the locations of the streets mentioned above. A newer Sanborn map from the 1920s would show streets with their current names.



Archives Services Revised to Reflect Patron and Virus Concerns

In the Arkansas State Archives blog, Director Dr. David Ware has penned a note pertaining to the temporary closure of the Archives branches, accessibility by e-mail, and ongoing important work:

He writes, "The developments of recent weeks have forced some changes in how we conduct our work, but rest assured, we are still at work and serving our patrons. Like many of you, the Archives staff of our three physical locations have been authorized to work remotely. Our research room, as well as our NEARA and SARA facilities, are closed to the public, but managers and administrative staff are answering queries that reach us by telephone, email, social media and, of course, conventional mail. "

"As importantly, our website and digital collections, effectively our "fourth location," are available and ready for researchers and browsers alike. The current health emergency has underlined for us the need to refine and expand our online offerings, so several Archives staff members are at work preparing new content to be uploaded for access, beginning this summer, on our new website and digital collections platform. Our aim is to be able to offer more information – documents, images, lesson plans and other materials – through an accessible and intuitive portal."

For more information from state historian Ware about ongoing Archives projects, please see:

<http://arkansasstatearchives.blogspot.com/2020/03/letter-from-state-historian.html>

Meet the Board

Anna McClung moved to Lonoke, Arkansas 13 years ago and works with the USDA. She serves on the Lonoke County Museum board and, during the last four years, has helped with grant writing, outreach events, editing historical information for museum books, and social media.



CALS and Other Libraries

Experience Cutbacks

Arkansas researchers use archives and libraries to advance genealogy, but many face funding shortages brought on by coronavirus closures and reduced dollars for municipalities and libraries even as they have added online services and webinars.

Central Arkansas Library System announced in May that it will furlough about 63 employees and will reduce the work hours of 72 more. The system has 300 employees, and is closed to the public at least through May 11. It has lost major revenue since closure in March.

Timeline on furloughs and a reduced hour work-share plan isn't precise, but Executive Director Nate Coulter told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that he hopes to rehire furloughed staff by the end of July. Coulter said the cutbacks should save the library about \$240,000. Even after libraries can reopen, their operations will likely be limited.

As a help to researchers, Ancestry Library Edition is open to CALS cardholders to use from home during the pandemic crisis. Contact calsinfo@cals.org for more information. For a list of overall Arkansas library closures, please see: <https://library.arkansas.gov/landing-page/details/arkansas-library-closures>

Administrative Stuff

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