



# AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Vol. 18 No. 5 September 2023

Leisa Horness, editor

Coming Events ---

AGS Conference

Via Zoom

Oct. 14, 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/58h8cjr>

Arkansas Scottish Festival

Batesville, AR

Oct. 27-29, 2023

[www.arscottishfest.com](http://www.arscottishfest.com)

Oakland & Fraternal Historic

Cemetery Park

160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nov. 5, 2023

[Friends.oaklandfraternal@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.oaklandfraternal@gmail.com)

## Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Celebrates 160 Years (1863-2023)



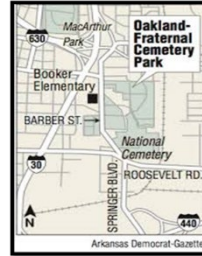
On Sunday, November 5, 2023, 2-5 pm **Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park** will be celebrating 160 years of its rich history. Please come on out and celebrate with us. We will have tours of the cemetery and mausoleum, music, information, and research assistance. We will welcome Mayor Scott to dedicate a bridge and a National Register of Historic Places Plaque.

We welcome you to come out and join in or to volunteer: to assist in helping at the information tables, assisting tour guides, scavenger hunt assistance, raffle ticket sales, and more You can reach us at [Friends.oaklandfraternal@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.oaklandfraternal@gmail.com) or by phone at 501 251 4891 (Carolyn Eastham).



In the early 1860s, a need arose in Little Rock for an additional cemetery. There were public health concerns regarding more burials in the city limits, and Mount Holly, established in 1843, was becoming overcrowded. The large number of soldiers' burials in Little Rock during the Civil War called for more burial space for both Confederate and Union dead. Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery now has 63 acres with 14 family mausolea, a 290-crypt public mausoleum, and over 60,000 monuments and sculptures.

## Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Cont.



In 1862 the city paid \$5,000 for the 160-acre Starbuck Estate of William Woodruff, Jane Woodruff, and Mary Starbuck for a new cemetery. It was called **Oakland** because it was in a wooded area outside the city limits on the old "Pine Bluff Dirt Road. By 1877 it was Little Rock's City Cemetery. The next year, Union troops established an encampment in the cemetery and buried their dead there. In 1866, the US Government bought 32 acres of land from Oakland Cemetery and established **Little Rock National Cemetery** to relocate the remains of Union soldiers from across the state to a more central location.

In 1874 the Jewish Congregation **B'nai Israel** purchased land at Oakland for their cemetery, many burials from the Jewish section at Mount Holly were reinterred at Oakland Jewish Cemetery. In 1902 the Jewish Orthodox community **Agudath Achim** purchased land adjacent to B'nai Israel Cemetery for its own cemetery.



In 1913 the **11-acre Confederate cemetery** was incorporated into the national cemetery. It holds the graves of 1,797 confederate burials. A **one-acre Confederate Cemetery** at the northeast corner of National Cemetery is called Confederate Cemetery and holds a mass grave of approximately 900 Confederate soldiers. It holds the remains of 640 Confederate soldiers who were reinterred to this area from Mount Holly Cemetery in 1884. The gravesite is marked with an 18-foot granite obelisk erected in 1913 and listed on the National Register of Historic places as Little Rock Confederate Memorial (1996).



IN MEMORY OF THE NINE HUNDRED CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS BURIED WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE, MOST OF WHOM DIED IN THE HOSPITALS IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS IN 1863

## Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Cont.

In 1888, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and some other African-American fraternal orders led by the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows were granted 14 acres by the city. In 1893, this cemetery was titled **Fraternal Cemetery**. A granite marker was placed in the cemetery which read, "Free American Citizens." Fraternal Cemetery saw the burials of distinguished members of the Black community that had grown and prospered in Little Rock following the Civil War. In 1975, and the cemeteries were combined and renamed Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park.



**Mausoleum in Fraternal Cemetery of John Bush, co-founder of Mosaic Templars.**



**The Oakland Mausoleum** was built in 1919 by the Southwestern Mausoleum Company and Cecil Bryan who designed and sold mausolea nationwide. The Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park is city-owned and managed by a City Board of Directors and a Sexton, John Rains.

Friends of Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park was founded in 2022. This non-profit corporation is devoted to the preservation and maintenance of Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery and Park. Our purpose is to raise awareness of the historic nature of the cemetery by providing financial and community support, education, and engaging community and family involvement.



Friends of Oakland and Fraternal  
Historic Cemetery Park  
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## 2023 AGS Conference Speakers Bring A Wealth of Knowledge

by Andria Yakoubian

In today's world of people doing genealogy alone on their computer, where else could you get decades of experience and knowledge from certified professional genealogists?

At the Arkansas Genealogy Fall Conference! It will be Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am. The conference will be virtual and free to anyone who signs up.

Our speakers, Paula Stuart-Warren and Lori Thornton have been researching and educating genealogy lovers for half of a century.

On the morning of October 14<sup>th</sup> Paula Stuart-Warren, a Board Certified Genealogist, will show us how to locate unusual resources to find hidden records for your ancestors, plus she will delve into what the U.S. National Archives have available to you.

Topics include:

9:15 a.m. – **Tho' They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records**

10:30 a.m. – **The U.S. National Archives: The Nation's Attic**

Paula currently lives in Minnesota and has been an active Genealogist since 1988.

Our second speaker of the day will be Lori Thornton who is a professional genealogist and has written many published articles in the U.S. and Canada. Lori will use her vast knowledge of the Southern States to show us ways to research our ancestors.

Topics include:

1:15 p.m. – **Deep Southern Roots: Alabama and Mississippi Ancestors**

2:30 p.m. – **North Carolina Research From The Comfort of Home**

Lori lives in East Tennessee and has been researching since 1992 but she became a professional genealogist in 2005. Read more about Lori at <https://www.thorntongenealogy.com/>

### Would your organization like to sponsor a Watch Party?

All you need is a computer to run the Zoom session, a big screen for everyone to watch, speakers or PA sound system, and a microphone to allow the audience to ask questions. A camera is encouraged, but not required. Contact [webmaster@argensoc.org](mailto:webmaster@argensoc.org) to make arrangements or to ask questions.

If internet is an issue in your area, a watch party at a location would be a great solution! Get a group together to have a viewing party at your local library plus you will have others to confer with.

AGS Conference: October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Register for our virtual conference at <https://tinyurl.com/58h8cjrj>.

## October Kitchen Roundtable Talk

By Mary Jane Baxley

### October Kitchen Roundtable Talk

Greetings in this lovely October!

With cooler temperatures finally gracing us, it's the perfect time to take our research into the field and embark on journeys to places of significance in our ancestral quests. Our Kitchen Roundtable discussion for this month, titled "Breaking Through Brick Walls," is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 PM. During this gathering, we will exchange insights on our successes in overcoming research obstacles and offer recommendations to those who are still navigating their genealogical challenges.

Each month, we delve into diverse genealogical topics and methodologies, fostering vibrant online discussions among our participants. This platform offers an exceptional opportunity to establish meaningful connections with fellow genealogy enthusiasts, cultivating new friendships within the community and forging connections with like-minded individuals who share our passion for research.

In the coming months, our discussions will encompass a range of intriguing topics, including Locating Records in Arkansas, The Art of Writing Your Family History One Chapter at a Time, Mastering Cemetery Research, Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Family History Pursuits, Preserving Treasured Family Recipes, and Navigating Technology Challenges in Genealogical Research.

We enthusiastically welcome suggestions from everyone for topics of interest and encourage volunteers to step forward as discussion leaders for subjects dear to their hearts. As this initiative continues to evolve, we anticipate making refinements based on our collective experiences. Your active participation and valuable feedback remain crucial in shaping the future of our endeavors.

The link to find a listing of our discussion topics is: <https://argensoc.org/kitchen>

To Register for the October event please use this Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlf-2rrzgiEtJ5U-dxkBs7akUXP4AjTEDg>

Thanks,

Mary Jane

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The Arkansas Genealogical Society welcomes news, events, and comments, etc. from other genealogical groups within the state or information that is Arkansas related.

Please send your news to us at [agscontributions@gmail.com](mailto:agscontributions@gmail.com).

## RootsTech 2024

Registration is now open for RootsTech 2024 at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> . The conference will be held February 29 – March 2, 2024, both in-person at Salt Lake City Utah and online. There will be over 200 new online sessions, you can join keynote sessions live, chat online with other attendees and get digital syllabi and class handouts for free! It's an invaluable learning opportunity for genealogists.

If you need a little help keeping up with online conferences and events, you might check out the free Conference Keeper genealogy calendar of events. Providing free publicity for any and all genealogy events. You can find them at <https://conferencekeeper.org/> .

### Administrative Stuff

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it to [ezine@argsoc.org](mailto:ezine@argsoc.org) – Thanks!

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