

The Arkansas Genealogical Society E-zine

Volume 1, Number 3 (October 2006)

Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley and Lynda Childers Suffridge

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Don't forget to register for the
AGS Fall Seminar October 20–21, 2006
<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/2006seminar.htm>
See complete information below (under "Events")

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AGS Membership Application <http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/MembershipApplication.pdf>

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If you missed an issue of the E-zine, need to make an email address correction, or to add your address to the email list, please go to <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm>

Did you know there is a "AGS Members Only Corner" at our website?

Members of the Arkansas Genealogical Society have special privileges including access to an online index of all issues of the *Arkansas Family Historian* through 2005. Also available here are PDF files for the same period covered by the index.

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AGS Members:
Visit Family Tree DNA to receive a reduced rate on DNA testing
and AGS will receive a referral fee!

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## Introduction:

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sending you this E-zine (**electronic magazine**) to keep you informed about information, activities, publications, and web links to help our members with their genealogical research in Arkansas. It is a free service to AGS members and anyone interested in Arkansas genealogy.

This E-zine is a supplement to, not a replacement of, the quarterly publication, the *Arkansas Family Historian* or to the *AGS Newsletter*.

Please let us know if you like this new membership benefit or if you have any information or helpful links to include in the next addition. All suggestions are welcomed. Email **AGS\_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org** with comments or information.

Queries will also be accepted, if they are clear and concise as to time and place, and pertain to Arkansas. Information about upcoming family reunions, county genealogical society events, new books, or any other items of interest are also accepted.

We'd also like to hear your anecdotes about researching Arkansas topics or any special problems or questions you have.

This E-zine is for you, the members, and we want to include anything that might assist you in your research.

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News about Arkansas Genealogy:

Long Time History Commission Staffer Has Article in National Publication

Press Release: Sept. 2, 2006

Russell P. Baker, long time staff member of the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock has authored an article appearing in the October/November issue of *Reunions*, the nation's largest magazine catering to the reunions industry. It is entitled "Thoughts on Site Selection" and deals with choosing sites for family reunion.

Baker, well known for his expertise in genealogy and family history, is currently President of the Standridge National Family Historical Society. He has conducted successful family reunions in Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. At the 2004 Standridge Family Reunion in Greenville, South

Carolina, over 200 attended the dedication of a grave marker for Revolutionary War veteran, James Standridge, Baker's ancestor.

Here are a few of his hints for a successful family gathering:

- Choose a location at or near a place with family significance
- Choose a facility with sufficient amenities to care for those who attend
- Avoid peak tourist season when motel rates are higher
- Negotiate for cheaper weekend motel rates
- Since motels allow you to block off a certain number of guest rooms in advance, ask how many you must fill in order to get a free meeting room
- Do not hesitate to ask the local visitors' center or chamber of commerce for help

The article also features a photo of Baker and several cousins at this reunion. It can eventually be seen at the Reunions website at www.reunionsmag.com

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Museum unveils new school days exhibit

By Bill Shrum, in the *Stuttgart (Arkansas) Daily Leader*
<http://www.stuttgartdailyleader.com/articles/2006/09/07/news/news02.txt>

In this article, Bill Shrum writes: "One-room schoolhouses—also known as country or farm schools—were the only access to education in the United States during the World War II period. And the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie has created a display to honor that age-old tradition."

The museum director, Pat Peacock, says that the museum is compiling a list of these schoolhouses that used to exist on the Arkansas Grand Prairie, which includes Arkansas County. They also have assembled an exhibit of artifacts and photographs of the old one-room schoolhouses in one of the museum rooms.

Some of the schools featured are: Brough Special School, Immanuel, Brown, Bothe, Hines, Malcomb, Cooper Stuckey, Oak Grove, Parham, La Fargue, Sunshine, Bayou Meto, Johnston, Clearpoint, Stahley, St. Charles, St. Olive, Yoder, Fairmount, Hurricane, Ulm, New Providence, Kreger, Idlewild, Vallier Casscoe, Williams, Alcorn and Almyra.

The Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie is located at 921 E. Fourth St. in Stuttgart and is open Tuesdays through Saturday. For more information, contact the museum at (870) 673-7001.

Follow the link above to read the entire article.

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Desmond Walls Allen to teach class at the University of Central Arkansas

"Leave a Legacy: Write Your Life Story" will encourage you to get your story on paper and perhaps into print, whether it's just for personal satisfaction or intended for a wider audience. We'll turn memories into memoirs. We'll write character sketches of some of the memorable people in your life. Don't leave this planet without telling your story and leaving your thoughts for future generations.

Class meets Tuesdays, Oct. 17, 24, 31, and Nov. 7. Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$65. Age 60+ 20% discount.

Desmond Walls Allen has taught genealogy classes all over the United States, and brings 20 years of teaching experience to the classroom. She appeared in Public Television's Ancestor series as a guest expert, and moderated AETN's special on genealogy in Arkansas. She's the owner of Arkansas Research, Inc., a publishing company devoted to making historical information about Arkansas available to researchers. The author/compiler of more than 250 books, she's still a down-to-earth teacher interested in helping students learn.

For more information contact UCA's Division of Academic Outreach and Extended Programs, Brewer Hegeman Conference Center, Suite 102, 201 Donaghey, Conway, AR 72035. Phone: 501/450-3118. E-mail: communityed@uca.edu

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## **Days Gone By: Chief Lightfoot looks back on life, shares stories with students**

Saturday, July 29, 2006; By JOHN FOOKS, © *Texarkana Gazette*  
[http://www.texarkanagazette.com/articles/2006/07/29/local\\_news/news/news01.txt](http://www.texarkanagazette.com/articles/2006/07/29/local_news/news/news01.txt)

Follow the link for an interesting article about this descendant of Sitting Bull (his birth name is Truman Desmond Whisenhunt), who lives in Texarkana, Texas.

This is a short excerpt, quoted from the newspaper story:

His father, Kelsie, was Choctaw, his mother, Margaret, was Cherokee and Lakota. Being Indian, they had to travel wherever they could find work in the white man's world, not always an easy task. Chief Lightfoot clearly remembers learning his station in life when he was still a teenage boy.

"I saw a white boy my age eating an ice cream and asked him where I could get some," Chief Lightfoot said. "He pointed me to a store but when I went in the store the owner told me I didn't need to be in there and he wouldn't sell me an ice cream. It was my first experience with that kind of thing."

Chief Lightfoot was born "on the road," so to speak. His mother and father were on their way to a reservation near Broken Bow, Okla., when her pregnancy came to term. They were forced to stop in Ben Lomond, Ark., and find a midwife so the baby could be delivered. A few days later they continued their journey to Oklahoma.

"I can't remember all the places that I and my two younger brothers and two younger sisters grew up in," Chief Lightfoot said. "Our father was doing all kinds of work, building wagons and all. After we settled in Texarkana, he had a

blacksmith's shop for several years under the Arkansas viaduct. I was about 9 when we moved here and lived in a house with a dirt floor on Creosote Road."

Chief Lightfoot made it as far as the sixth grade in Eylau\* School but his brothers and sisters didn't do much better. They were always moving and working with their father or keeping house with their mother. The chief remembers planting potatoes for food. . .

\*Editor's Note: Eylau is a community about five miles southwest of Texarkana, in Bowie County, Texas, not far from the Arkansas state line.

## **Pocahontas Sesquicentennial Celebration**

From the Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter

Vol. 23, No. 2 (September 2006): 6

"A Pocahontas Sesquicentennial Celebration will take place over three weekends Sept. 21–Oct. 8 at Historic Court Square. The first weekend showcases the early years through the Civil War era; the second weekend focuses on the World War II years, and the final weekend will be a 'Homecoming.' Admission to the celebration is free. . . ."

"For more information . . . as well as a full schedule of events, contact Linda Bowlin at (870) 892-4426 or visit [www.sesqui.randolphcomuseum.org](http://www.sesqui.randolphcomuseum.org)."

## **Arkansas Links:**

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page  
[www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org)

Arkansas State Highway Department  
County and State Highway maps for sale  
[www.arkansashighways.com](http://www.arkansashighways.com)

Arkansas Historical Association  
<http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/>

*Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Index, 1942–2000  
<http://arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/>

Arkansas History Commission (the state archives)  
<http://www.ark-ives.com/>  
Baxter County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society:  
<http://www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/>

Conway County Genealogical Society  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arconway/ccga.htm>

[ePodunk.com: Search for any city or town in the US](http://www.epodunk.com/)  
<http://www.epodunk.com/>

National Register of Historic Sites, Arkansas  
<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html>  
Prairie County, Arkansas, Genealogical Homepage  
<http://www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/prairie/>

Prairie County, Arkansas, Rootsweb  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arprairi/>

Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies  
<http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/>

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives  
<http://www.southwestarchives.com/>

## Tips for Arkansas Researchers:

### TIP #1

**Did you know that the Arkansas Highway Department has a full range of maps to help you with your Arkansas research?**

Many highway maps in a variety of sizes and types are available for purchase including:

- [State Highway \(Tourist\) Map](#) - **Free!**
- State Highway Wall Map
- State, County and City Highway and Street Maps
- County Outline Map
- State, County and City Annual Average Daily Traffic Maps
- Historical County Maps - 1936
- Digital Aerial Photographs - **Digital Media Only!**

**See their map site at: <http://www.arkansashighways.com/maps.htm>**

Submitted by Carolyn Earle Billingsley

### TIP #2

When researching your family, you must learn to be very flexible about the spelling of the name. There is no correct spelling of a name. The different spellings you will find in 'official documents' of a name is a constant challenge for family history researchers. When you spend time reading the original record you will develop a bit more sympathy for the indexer because the handwriting is often very difficult to read. There will even be times when you will find the name spelled different ways in one document.

For example when searching for the Searcy family these variations in spelling were found in the records: Circia, Learcy, Search, Sercy, and Sircy. L's and

S's are often difficult to read. Another example was a Lockhart family indexed as Sockhart.

Submitted by Lynda Childers Suffridge

## Upcoming articles in the Arkansas Family Historian:

Proposed Articles, Volume 44, Number 4 (December 2006)

*Listening for the Untold Stories: Strategies for Capturing the Narratives of Women in the South Prior to the 20th Century.* The final part of Bill Lindsey's article about finding the stories of the lives of his female ancestors,

An index to obituaries found in the *Mena Weekly Star* from 1904 through 1906, extracted by Whitney McLaughlin.

A reprint of Tom Dilliard's column, *Remembering Arkansas*, from the July 16, 2006 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. The article is titled *A History of State's Post Offices is a Social History, Too*, and it is about Russell Baker's book, *Arkansas Post Offices, from Memdag to Norsk*.

## Events:

### AGS Fall Seminar

Friday evening, 20 October 2006: Featuring **Gregory A. Boyd (See article below)**

- Family Maps\*
- More Skeletons than You Can Count\*\*

Saturday, 21 October 2006: Featuring **Barbara Vines Little**

- Born in Virginia: How Do I Find Him?
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part I
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part II
- Beyond the Courthouse: Virginia's Manuscript Collections

Friday only, \$15. Saturday only, \$25. Friday and Saturday, \$35.

Place: Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham, Little Rock, Arkansas.

See AGS website [www.agsgenealogy.org](http://www.agsgenealogy.org) for details or write Seminar Chair Gloria Futrell at [gfutrell@aol.com](mailto:gfutrell@aol.com).

\*Family Maps by Gregory A. Boyd

At the upcoming Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar, Greg Boyd will share with us many tips and tricks to making best use of his critically-acclaimed "Family

Maps" series of books. These books, which are over 180 in number so far, map the locations for first land-owners among counties in sixteen different states. Arkansas is one of those states Boyd has focused on and he has already published books with maps for thousands of first landowners located in these counties: Cleburne, Columbia, Conway, Drew, Faulkner, Hempstead, Howard, Logan, Newton, Pike, Pulaski, Saline, Searcy, Scott, Union, Van Buren, and Washington.

At least one new Arkansas book is published each month while the overall series grows by an amazing three books each week, on average. The "Family Maps" series offers up one of the simplest methods ever devised to determine maiden-name possibilities identify related-families who migrated together, and to actually locate where ancestral land is located. States besides Arkansas which have received treatment in this series are Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wisconsin.

During the Family Maps talk, Greg will also discuss other related tools available on the internet and how to make best use of them. There is also a chance that the upcoming Texas Survey Land Maps series about to be released by his company may get a moment or two of mention. Arphax Publishing, Greg's company, will be exhibiting at the Conference and Greg and his wife, Vicki, co-owners of the company, will be available for questions. You can always find out more about this historic project by visiting their web-site at [www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com).

\*\*In his other session on Friday, entitled "More Skeletons than You Can Count," Greg will share with us why we should not be afraid to dig deeper into our family's past just because we have heard there are "skeletons in the closet." He will do most of this while relating to us how he came to uncover an unusually "colorful" past on both sides of his family.

This session promises to both entertain and educate while Boyd tries to motivate us as family historians be truth-seekers and truth-tellers, and to be careful not to perpetuate half-truths or outright lies. Greg jokes that "all the great sins are represented in my tree," but insists there is a serious side to all of the bad behavior and he tries to help us know when it is okay to share what we have learned and with whom, and how.

Greg's main goal in pursuing the truth about the skeletons in his own family has been to help him understand some of the behavior of his close kin, his birth-family and himself. His curiosity about how his family came to believe the way they do, and act the way they do during good times and bad, has motivated him to approach genealogy and family history with "no blinders" and to try to see people the way they really were and are. He plans on sharing his approach with us, and to show us how we, like he, can learn from the errors in our family's past.

## Book Notices:

***Cleveland County, Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*** is a 9 x 12 book containing 584 pages with over 600 family histories and 750 photographs. It contains a brief history of the county and its communities. The durable hard cover is navy with gold logo and print. Published by Walsworth Publishing of Marceline, Missouri. All proceeds from sales of this book go to the Cleveland County Historical and Genealogical Society and the proposed extension and

furnishing of the History and Genealogy Room of the Sturgis Library of Cleveland County. Order for \$75.00 + \$10.00 shipping and handling per copy from Cleveland County Historical & Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 192, Rison, AR 71665. Books may be purchased in person at the Sturgis Library in Rison; from Billie Langford or Louise Mitchell at Kingsland; or from Lynn and Irene Wooley at Woodlawn.

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ARKANSAS TRAVELERS II: Descendants & Ancestors of Gilford Garner of Dallas County, Arkansas is the culmination of seventeen years of research into the descendants and ancestry of Gilford Garner, the son of a Revolutionary War soldier and a native of Georgia, his two wives, and his over 3000 descendants. This 565 page volume tracks the descendants that started out in Alabama and have now migrated around the country. The Garners, genealogical and historical researchers, published the award-winning **Arkansas Traveler** and provide for you this hardcover book for only the \$55 printing costs plus \$5.00 per book for shipping. Printed on pH neutral paper, conforming to Library of Congress standards, with an every-name index, the book has many pictures, maps, and documents. Ancestry to his *Sons of the American Revolution* Ancestor, as well as ancestry to Charlemagne, is given. To order your copy, please send a check for \$60 made out to Hallie Garner. For additional information contact: Hallie Garner, 8923 Woodshore Dr., Dallas, TX 75243-6531; phone: 214-349-3869; email: hallie.garner@sbcglobal.net Libraries may send purchase orders via US mail or email.

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**Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas**, available from [www.ArkansasResearch.com](http://www.ArkansasResearch.com). The first book is the index to all obituaries from 1976 to 2005; the remaining books are photocopies of all the actual obituaries. All were collected by John T. Sanders, Sr., then indexed and published by Desmond Walls Allen. You can also view the actual indexes to each volume at the Arkansas Research website. Note that obituaries for these time periods are often for people born back in the late 1800s. Published 2006.

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Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society Publications

<http://www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/>

<i>Blessed are the Peacemakers</i> by J.W. Smith (\$5.00 goes to Society)	\$21.95
<i>Baxter County Ancestors, Vol. 1</i>	\$22.50
<i>Baxter County Ancestors, Vol. 2</i>	\$25.00

<i>Of Grave Importance</i>	\$40.00
<i>Early Marriages of Baxter County, 1873–1897</i>	\$12.00
<i>Early Marriages of Baxter County, 1897-1920</i>	\$12.00
<i>Baxter County History (Centennial Edition)</i> , hardback, by Mary Ann Messick	\$100.00
<i>Bennett's Bayou</i> by Donald S. Hubbell, Jr.	\$22.50
<i>The History</i> (back copies of the Quarterly)	\$3.00
<i>The History ✓ The First Twenty Years</i> (index)	\$35.00
<i>The History ✓ The Next Seven Years</i> (index)	\$25.00
<i>Index to the History of Marion County</i>	\$9.00
<i>Crownover Family History</i>	\$25.00
<i>Crownover Newsletters</i>	\$8.00
<i>Dear Jean</i> by Jeanetta Grigg (\$5.00 goes to Society)	\$20.00
<i>Focus on History, Vol. I</i> by Mary Ann Messick	\$15.00
<i>Focus on History, Vol. II</i> by Mary Ann Messick	\$15.00
<i>Focus on History, Vol. III</i> by Mary Ann Messick	\$15.00
<i>Focus on History, Vol. IV</i> by Mary Ann Messick	\$15.00
<i>The Wolf Was Never Far Away</i> by Emmitt Acklin (\$5.00 goes to Society)	\$24.95
<i>Liberty, Our Heritage</i> by Emmitt Acklin (\$5.00 goes to Society)	\$25.00
<i>History and Families of Baxter County</i> (new low price)	\$45.00
<i>Hatch, Match & Dispatch, 1950 ✓ 1952</i>	\$20.00
<i>Hatch, Match & Dispatch, 1953 ✓ 1954</i>	\$20.00
<i>Hatch, Match & Dispatch, 1955 ✓ 1956</i>	\$20.00
<i>Was It Murder? The Dark Side of Baxter County History</i> by Maryanne Edge	\$30.00

Shipping cost of \$5.00 must be added per book. To order, contact [Jane Andrewson](#).

Other Baxter County publications compiled by former BCHGS President, Margie Garr: [Link](#) for more information

Note that the Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Regular meetings are held at the Baxter County Heritage Museum in Gassville at 7:00 p.m. Special meetings may be held at a different place or time. Please call Jane Andrewson at (870) 425-4502 to make sure of the time and place. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

New AGS Publications:

For complete list of Arkansas Genealogical Society publications, see <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/publications.htm>

ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX, VOLUME 4

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has just published the *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volume 4*. This volume continues the indexing of the births in Arkansas before 1 February 1914. These original records have never been published, since the Vital Records office did not have an accurate index. Volunteers from AGS indexed the data for the Vital Records office and are allowed to publish all birth certificates that are 100 years old. This volume sells for \$60.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

ARKANSAS PRIOR BIRTH INDEX CD, VOLUME 1- 4

If you'd rather have the complete set of Prior Birth Indexes on CD, the price is right—much cheaper than buying the printed volumes. This CD is the combination of Volumes 1 through 4. It sells for only \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping. It is searchable by the birth name, mother's maiden name, county, and date. This CD is great for your personal library.

ARKANSAS TOWNSHIP ATLAS Revised With Improved Maps

Arkansas Township Atlas, 1819-1930 sells for \$25.00 plus \$6.00 shipping was written by Russell P. Baker. It is an index of the civil divisions in the 75 counties in Arkansas. There are newly improved maps to show the location of the townships within each county and regional maps of the entire state. The counties are listed alphabetically with the origin of each township and date of change when they moved within the state. This is a valuable book to the researcher in finding the location and the origin of the township. It is well indexed and easy to use with the revised information.

Not new, but still essential for researching in Arkansas—

Arkansas Post Offices: From Memdag to Norsk, A Historical Directory, 1832-1990 sells for \$25.00 plus \$6.00 for shipping. It is an index of all the post offices in Arkansas during that time period. It lists the date the post office closed and the land description if known. Some are named for the postmasters and other interesting facts. This is a helpful book in locating post offices from the census records by listing the county in which they were located and the relocation. It was written and donated to AGS by Russell P. Baker.

Arkansas residents must add 7% sales tax.

To order these and other AGS publications, send a check or money order to:

Arkansas Genealogical Society
POB 17653
Little Rock, AR 72222

Or print order form at www.agsgenealogy.org

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Opt-out notice:

If you do not wish to receive the AGS E-zine, please send your name and email address to **AGS\_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org**. Just tell us you don't wish to receive the E-zine, and you will be removed from our list. If you know of someone who wants to be on the list to receive the e-zine, please send the name and email address to the address above.

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