

The Arkansas Genealogical Society E-zine

Volume 2, Number 1 (January 2007)

Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley
and Lynda Childers Suffridge

* * * * *

Happy New Year to all!

Your editors, like the rest of you, have been busy with the holidays, so this issue is a bit shorter than normal (but it's still full of good information). By next month, we'll be back on our game. Send us stuff! We welcome your input, questions, queries, and tips.

* * * * *

[AGS Membership Application](http://www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm)

<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm>

* * *

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 an "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.

* * *

Table of Contents:

- Introduction
 - Discount on Family Tree DNA services
 - News about Arkansas Genealogy
 - Arkansas Links
 - Tips for Arkansas Research
 - Upcoming articles in the *Arkansas Family Historian*
 - Events
 - Book Notices
 - AGS Publications
 - Queries
-

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 to anyone, including non-AGS members who are 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 service 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.

AGS Members: Family Tree DNA Discount

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is proud to be associated with Family Tree DNA, the largest genetic genealogy testing company in the world. This partnership program has the objective of providing reduced group rates for members to test their DNA for genealogy purposes, and at the same time present additional revenue for AGS without costing more to the member.

You can order at lower group rates through the Arkansas Genealogical Society. To do so, you can either call or fill in the form at http://www.ftdna.com/surname_join.asp?code=L81808.

For additional testing for genealogical purposes you can log on to the website at www.familytreedna.com or contact them at info@familytreedna.com or 713-868-1438.

News about Arkansas Genealogy:

NOTICE:

The AGS Workshop, featuring Desmond Walls Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley, originally scheduled for February, has been postponed. Arrangements could not be made in time to carry through with AGS plans. Stay tuned for further developments.

Another AGS workshop is now scheduled: see listing under Events.

In the meantime, Allen and Billingsley will be lecturing at the Angelina College Genealogy conference in Lufkin, Texas, in July. See <http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm> for details.

LOST AND RECENTLY FOUND GRAVE STONES

By Russell P. Baker

Recently a friend of mine found several loose gravestones abandoned in or near a roadside ditch in a rural area where the counties of Pike, Montgomery, and Clerk come together east of Glenwood. This kind soul took them to the nearby Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Pike County for safekeeping.

There are four "homemade" fieldstones markers in the collection. Unfortunately, only I found discernable inscriptions on only three of them. On broken stone says "Virgie Hamilton b. Feb. 8, 1899 [d. 19] 14". The second says "Lee David Baby", no dates. The third says "Avas Myers", no dates.

Virgie Hamilton was the daughter of James B. and Martha E. Hamilton (see below). Avas may be Nancy A., the wife of Mark or Marques L. Meyers or Myers. Both families were neighbors and lived in the extreme southwest corner of Montgomery County near the Pike County line. It is not clear whether the other inscription is meant to be "Lee, David" meaning a baby named David Lee or a baby named Lee David. The stone contains no dates.

It is likely that these grave markers are from a long abandoned small family or community cemetery, perhaps located near Caney Creek east of Glenwood. They may have been disturbed when the road was widened. It may have served as a local grave yard when the flooded creek prevented bodies being buried in the Bethel Cemetery. Most of the Hamilton Family members are buried in that cemetery.

1900 U. S. Census, Caney Township, Montgomery County, AR, household #205:

Hamelton, James B.	b. Sept. 1852 married 18 years	b. MS, fa. b. MS, mo. b. MS
Martha E.	Aug. 1863	b. MS, fa. b. MS, mo. b. MS
Mollie M.	Dec. 1883	b. MS
Louis O.	Dec. 1888	b. AR
Joel L.	Feb. 1891	b. AR
Zolar	Sept. 1893	b. AR
Oba	Sept. 1897	b. AR

#215	Virgie	Feb. 1900	b. AR
	Meyers, Marques L.	Nov. 1862	married 9 months
	b. MS		
	Nancy A.	Sept. 1881	b. AL fa. b. AL, mo.
		b. AL	
	Martha C.	Oct. 1884	b. AR
	Ethel	June 1888	b. AR
	Pearl	Aug. 1890	b. AR
	Coda C.	March, 1892	b. AR
	Ashcraft, William J.	Nov. 1881 nephew	b. AR

If you have questions or information about these tombstones, contact Russell P. Baker at Gobgob3@mindspring.com.

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Fellow

Carolyn Earle Billingsley has been appointed the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Fellow for 2007. In addition to a stipend, Billingsley will have access to the Central Arkansas computer network, office space, and the full range of research and support services from the Butler Center for the one-year term of the fellowship.

In return, Billingsley will work all year on a project, to produce a manuscript of publishable quality and to make a public presentation on that topic, in addition to other responsibilities.

Billingsley has chosen to do research on the defunct community of Hardscramble, which is, or was, a small black community at the end of West Baseline Road, mostly in Pulaski County, but partly in Saline County, and up against Fourche Creek.

Hardscramble obviously took its name from the adjective "hardscrabble" but became scrambled (pun intended) when southerners pronounced it. And it certainly was a hardscrabble area.

Now, all that remains are two black cemeteries, two churches (Labana Missionary Baptist and Quinn Chapel AME Church), and street names that honor the past and present residents. Otter Creek subdivision and the Eagle Hills Golf Center and residential area are fast encroaching on what's left of the old community.

Since virtually nothing has been written or recorded about this community (it never even had a post office), Billingsley hopes to preserve its history before it's entirely gone. She would welcome any input from any source about Hardscramble or the families that lived there.

Be a Volunteer at the State Archives

Volunteers provide an invaluable service and the Arkansas History Commission welcomes the support of the community. Volunteer opportunities include assisting patrons in the research room, data entry and computer use, conservation work, and special projects (new and exciting ways to share our resources).

If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Arkansas History Commission, please fill contact the AHC. For more information, call 501.682.6900, or email state.archives@arkansas.gov.

Jane M. Hooker, Archivist
Arkansas History Commission
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
501.682.6895
www.ark-ives.com
jane.hooker@arkansas.gov

Note about the Arkansas History Commission

For those of you who haven't visited the AHC (the state archives) in a while, here's a first-hand report from Jan Berryman:

From: Jan Berryman <<mailto:berryman15@comcast.net>>
To: ags@rootsweb.com <<mailto:ags@rootsweb.com>>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2006 8:46 AM
Subject: [AGS] Arkansas History Commission

I walked into the Arkansas History Commission on December 12, for the first time in almost a year. I thought I had walked into the wrong room. I did not know they had completely remodeled. The new layout is great. They have also upgraded the microfilm readers to reader printers and added a bunch of new computers with USB ports for flash drives. Also they have a new card system for paying for copies. You buy a card, then load it with cash value by feeding dollar bills into the machine. Then when you make copies, you use the card to pay instead of feeding coins. I came equipped with a roll of quarters like usual but those days are gone.

Of course the people still make the place and everyone was EXTREMELY HELPFUL, as usual. I had a very successful two days at the AHC. I want to complement the Commission on its great updated facility and thank everyone there for their kind assistance.

I will be back. If you have not been, you need to go check it out.

Jan Berryman

Editor's note: The books are now shelved in the main room and patrons can browse the books to their hearts' content, rather than having to fill out a call slip and wait for the book to be retrieved.

To sign up for the AGS e-mail list, send an email to <mailto:ags-request@rootsweb.com?subject=subscribe>

List-Archive:

If you haven't joined the list, you can still read the archived posts to the AGS-L at <<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index?list=ags>>

~ ~ ~

David O. Demuth Arkansas Room of the Saline County Library

Steve Purdue, the Curator of the David O. Demuth Arkansas Room (History and Genealogy), publishes an online newsletter.

You can access the Saline County Library web site at <http://www.saline.lib.ar.us/>

The Genealogy and Local History Page is at <http://www.saline.lib.ar.us/web/Genealogy.html>. Click on the link for "Arkansas Room Newsletter" on the right side of the page. The newsletter is in PDF format.

For more information, contact the Arkansas Room Curator, Steve Purdue: sperdue@saline.lib.ar.us

"The Edge of the Nation" by Jennifer Nixon

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Sunday, 31 December 2006,
Travel Section, pp. 1H, 6H.

"The old 19th-century saying summed it up pretty well: "There is no Sunday west of St. Louis, no God west of Fort Smith. . . ."

So begins an informative article about the history of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. To read the article, go to the web site of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, www.arkansasonline.com, and enter a search term in the search box.

Articles appearing within the last week can be accessed free, and you can search the Archives free (link on main page). Once you find an

older article or obituary in the archives search, however, you must register and pay \$1.95 per article to see the entire item.

Tom W. Dillard, the Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, and head of the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) Special Collections Department, writes an always informative and entertaining column "Remembering Arkansas," in each Sunday edition of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

This week's column is titled "Reading County Journals Brings History Home." While you're at the newspaper's web site, you might want to look this one up too. And remind yourself to read it online every Sunday. It's always full of Arkansas history from one of the most knowledgeable people in this field.

Arkansas Links:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page
www.agsgenealogy.org

Arkansas State Highway Department
County and State Highway maps for sale
www.arkansashighways.com

Arkansas Historical Association
www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/

Arkansas Historical Quarterly Index, 1942–2000
arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/

Arkansas History Commission (the state archives):
www.ark-ives.com/

Baxter County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society:
www.baxtercountyonline.com/bchgs/

Benton County, Arkansas, GenWeb:
www.rootsweb.com/~arbenton/

Bentonville Public Library, Benton, County, Arkansas:
www.youseemore.com/bentonville/

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies:
www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/

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

Encyclopedia of Arkansas
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

ePodunk.com: Search for any city or town in the US
www.epodunk.com/

National Register of Historic Sites, Arkansas:
www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html

Newton County Historical Society:
www.newtoncountyar.com

Prairie County, Arkansas, Genealogical Homepage:
www.couchgenweb.com/arkansas/prairie/

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

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

Saline County, Arkansas, Genealogy Page:
www.rootsweb.com/~arsaline/

Saline County History and Heritage Society, Inc.
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arschhs/>

Saline County, Arkansas, Library
www.saline.lib.ar.us/

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives:
www.southwestarchives.com/

Tips for Arkansas Researchers:

Have you noticed there's a new option at the GLO web site? I think all of us are familiar with the usual uses of this site at the Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, located at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

Usually we input a state and a name, and the search engine shows us a list of government land purchases for anyone with that name. But you can also put in a land description and find out who bought land from the U.S. government at that location.

And now, you can see the original land surveys for Arkansas and other states. The information at this site states:

New! Survey plats

Survey plats are a recent addition to this site. Survey plats were the official survey documentation used when land title was transferred (via a Land Patent) from the Federal government to individuals. The drawings were created to represent survey lines, boundaries, descriptions, parcels and subdivisions. They are critical historic documents that can be used to help researchers locate the land referenced in a land patent's legal land description (i.e. Meridian, Township, Range, and Section/Block).

Go to the main link, then choose "Search Surveys" on the menu bar, instead of "Search Land Patents."

You won't find exciting plats of landowners; these surveys were mostly done in Arkansas in the 1820s. They were done by the government in order to survey out tracts so they could then be offered for sale. Nevertheless, they're an interesting addition to your family history research.

Upcoming articles: Arkansas Family Historian:

Proposed Articles, Volume 45, Number 1 (March 2007)

Items not yet compiled; see next e-zine.

Events:

**Arkansas Genealogical Society's
Free Workshop
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Pleasant Valley Church of Christ
10900 Rodney Parham Rd
Little Rock, AR 72212**

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sponsoring a free workshop featuring Russell Pierce Baker and Lynda Childers Suffridge.

Registration will be limited!

8:30-9:30 am: Registration

9:30-10:30 am: Five Civilized Tribes and Their Records – Part I by Russell Baker

10:30-11:00 am: Break

11:00-12:00 noon: Five Civilized Tribes and Their Records – Part II by Russell Baker

12:00 noon-1:00 pm: Lunch [\$6.50 per person]

1:00-2:00 pm: Land Records, Part I – Federal Land Survey System by Lynda Suffridge

2:00-2:30 pm: Break

2:30-3:30 pm: Land Records, Part II – Metes & Bounds by Lynda Suffridge

Plan Now to Attend!

For more information contact: Contact Jan Davenport at jhdavenport@comcast.net or www.agsgenealogy.org

UALR Class: Genealogy and Southern History

This semester, UALR is offering Part II to this class. It is open to all who have taken Part I or to those with moderate genealogical experience, at the discretion of the professor.

In Part I of Genealogy and Southern History, students learned the basics of genealogy, how to add historical context to their family histories, genealogical numbering systems, basic citation methods, and how to compose a bibliography. As a final project, students wrote a family history paper, with the purpose (after grading, of course!) of publishing it in a local, county, or state genealogical journal. The seventeen students were very successful in their endeavors and we should be seeing some of their efforts published in various journals soon.

In Part II of Genealogy and Southern History, students will work on a project to write the history of a place—a community, a church, a cemetery, a town, a township, or a group of people. Instead of a lecture class, this will be a seminar class, where students are seated at tables, interacting in discussions led by Dr. Carolyn Earle Billingsley.

If you are interested in taking this course, contact Billingsley at cebillingsley@earthlink.net to be cleared to take the course. Those over 60 years of age can register at no cost, although there are books to be purchased (ones that a genealogist will benefit from having). According to the UALR site:

Students Over Age 60 - Non-degree seeking

Persons eligible to attend the University under the state law that allows free tuition for persons over age 60 may be admitted on a space-available basis. No credentials other than proof of age are required. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

Students Over Age 60 - Degree seeking

Persons eligible to attend the University under the state law that allows free tuition for persons over age 60 may be admitted on a space-available basis. Transcripts are required from all institutions for transfer work. Students in this category are not eligible for federal aid.

The class number is HIST4390-01 (CRN #11408), and you can access the UALR class offerings from the History Department at http://www.ualr.edu/classes/200710_44.htm, then scroll down to CRN 11408, HIST 4390-01, or you can enter via the main web page at <http://www.ualr.edu/www/> to find links to general information about admission and other things of interest.

Classes will be held on Tuesday nights, from 6pm-8:40pm, in Stabler Hall. Parking is entirely open for evening classes; no lots are closed.

The class is limited to a maximum of about fifteen students to maintain the ease of open discussion, but there's still plenty of room if you're interested.

Genealogy Classes at UCA in Conway

Desmond Walls Allen is teaching "Researching Your Family History" in Conway through the University of Central Arkansas' Academic Outreach department. The six-week class starts February 21st and meets each Wednesday through March 28th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class is designed to help you identify, locate, and understand basic reference materials used by genealogists to track down those elusive ancestors. We pay special attention to looking at the communities of kinship that surround families and emphasize historical context. We'll examine documents in various record categories and develop a knack for listening to, rather than just reading, old records. The class is designed for researchers who've already gotten their feet wet in genealogical waters, but beginners are welcome, too.

The cost for the six-week course is \$85, but register before January 31st and the early bird price is only \$70. Save even more if you're 60+ and take off an additional 20 percent. Held in Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center, parking is close, convenient and plentiful.

Desmond is also teaching "Preserving Your Family Papers, Photographs, and Heirlooms" at UCA on Saturday, March 3rd, from 9:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Join us and learn about formulating a plan to organize, document, and safely display and store those treasures you want to protect and pass on to future generations. We'll talk about tools, methods and supplies to conserve papers, photos, quilts, furniture, china, books, jewelry, and more. This class isn't for archivists—it's for you, the family historian.

The cost for the all-day workshop is \$55, but register before January 31st and the early bird price is only \$45. And speak up if you're 60+ and get an additional 20 percent off. A box lunch is included in the registration price.

To learn more or to sign up, call (501) 450-3118, or e-mail communityed@uca.edu

In mid-January, the Spring 2007 UCA community education brochure will be posted at <http://www.uca.edu/aoep/leisure/>

Can't take a class this semester? Call or e-mail and ask to have your name and address put on their mailing list.

AGS Board Member to Speak in Florida

The Imperial Polk Genealogy Society (Florida), in cooperation with the Ohio Genealogical Society—Florida Chapter, will present a one-day seminar, March 10, 2007.

Featured Speakers:

**Carolyn Earle Billingsley, Ph.D. of Alexander, Arkansas—
Kinship Theory
Kinship Theory: A Case Study*

**J. Mitchell Brown of High Springs, Florida—
Researching Records of the Indian Wars of the Southeast,
1815–1858*

**Jack V. Butler of Woodville, Florida—
Understanding Territorial Records"*

For more information,
go to http://www.ipgs.org/Seminar_Registration.htm

2007 Spring Family History Workshop

The Village Genealogical Society, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, will host a 2007 Spring Family History Workshop featuring George G. Morgan, internationally known speaker and author, Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the Coronado Center, 150 Ponderosa Lane, Hot Springs Village.

The morning session is "Genealogical Research on the Internet" and the afternoon session is "Advanced Genealogical Research Methodologies for the Internet."

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. Seminar Fee is \$25.00 if postmarked by February 12, 2007 and \$30.00 postmarked after February 12, 2007. Mail check payable to Village Genealogical Society and mail to VGS, 5 Lindsay Place, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

You may call Jeanette Frahm at (501)922-9220 or email her at J44F65@yahoo.com for information. You may also check their website for additional information and directions at <http://members.cox.net/hsvgs/>

North Arkansas Ancestor Fair June 1-2, 2007, Marshall, Arkansas

The Searcy County Historical Society and the Searcy County Library will sponsor the 18th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, a genealogical swap meet.

Friday, June 1, Dr John Littlefield will speak on Native American Research.

Saturday, June 2, is the genealogical swap meet for north Arkansas families and organizations to exchange information. Over 250 people are expected.

For more information contact:
<ragland1935@yahoo.com> or see: www.ancestorfair.us/.

Book Notices:

None submitted this month.

AGS Publications:

For complete list of Arkansas Genealogical Society publications, go to 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.

Another Revised Edition of an essential book—

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

Queries:

Editor's note: Please be specific about time period and county of the people you're researching. The more exact the information you give, the more likely someone can help you.

~ ~ ~

No queries were received this month. Send yours in now! Or send in a question about Arkansas history, genealogy, research, your own research problem, or any other topic. We'll find a qualified person to answer your question and print it here.

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Copyright © Arkansas Genealogical Society, 2007