



A Success Story

By Carolyn Earle Billingsley, PhD

In last month's ezine (December 2007), we told you about a large oval portrait of a young drummer boy that was on sale on eBay. The boy's portrait was done about 1900 and he was from North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. I expressed dismay that somebody would probably buy the portrait for the antique frame (which is worth more than the portrait) and would probably throw away the boy's portrait. The portrait, even if preserved, would be separated from its history, just like all those other lonely unidentified photographs we see everywhere.

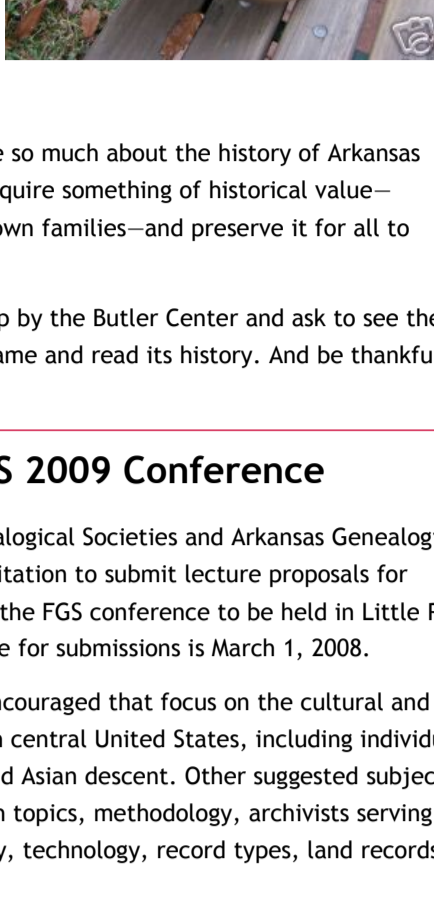
Well, this story has a happy ending. AGS Ezine readers, Wallace E. and Norma Davenport of Houston, Texas, were willing to bid on this item, merely for the sake of preserving it, and they won it. An exchange of emails resulted in several Arkansas repositories expressing interest in the little drummer boy's portrait.

The Davenports contacted me to let me know how they wanted the transaction handled and so I drove over and picked up the portrait from the seller this past week. I was able to get a lot of the family history and the story behind the portrait. It turns out that this "boy's" mother was North Little Rock's first female alderman, so there's a bit of North Little Rock history involved as well as the family history.

The Davenports asked me to take the portrait and donate it to the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Little Rock Public Library, which I will do next week. The Butler Center staff members are very pleased to accept the gift of this historic and interesting item.

It's wonderful to know there are people who care so much about the history of Arkansas and environs, that they were willing to pay to acquire something of historical value—something with no personal connection to their own families—and preserve it for all to enjoy in a safe place.

If you happen to be in Little Rock sometime, drop by the Butler Center and ask to see the little drummer boy's portrait in its antique tin frame and read its history. And be thankful for people like Wally and Norma Davenport.



New Members

Barbara Lawrence
Little Rock, AR

Lurabeth Cothren
Tracy, CA

Alice Steele
Granada Hills, CA

Alexandra G. Baird
Little Rock, AR

John Clemons
Searcy, AR

Michael J. and Gwynda Brantley
Seagoville, TX

Join us!

[AGS Membership Application](#)

Call for Lecture Proposals: FGS 2009 Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and Arkansas Genealogical Society announce an invitation to submit lecture proposals for *Passages through Time*, the FGS conference to be held in Little Rock, Sept. 2-5, 2009. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2008.

Lecture proposals are encouraged that focus on the cultural and ethnic roots of the south central United States, including individuals of European, African, and Asian descent. Other suggested subject areas are: basic research topics, methodology, archivists serving genealogists, oral history, technology, record types, land records, and society management.

Submissions on original topics are especially encouraged, including those not specifically related to genealogical topics, but may be of interest to researchers. Potential speakers may submit any number of proposals, though a maximum of 4 lectures per speaker will be selected (if chosen). While most sessions are expected to follow the usual one hour lecture format, the program committee will consider proposals for panels and workshops.

To learn more about how to submit lecture proposals, visit the [AGS website](#) or the [FGS website](#).

More About Oklahoma Research

By Rose Stauber, Volunteer, Grove Oklahoma Public Library

In regard to the item on early Oklahoma research in the last AGS Ezine, I have a couple of comments.

First, it might be mentioned in regard to the 1907 Oklahoma census that only the census for Seminole County survives. That makes that census not valuable to the rest of the state.

The editor's note that the 1890 and 1907 censuses are available only by subscription from Ancestry is not true. Both are generally available. The 1890 census of Oklahoma Territory (does not include Indian Territory) is one roll of microfilm. We have a copy in our genealogy collection at the Grove Public Library (Oklahoma). I believe that the Oklahoma Historical Society has a card index to the film. The Oklahoma Genealogical Society is serially publishing the census in the quarterly.

The best censuses for early Oklahoma research are the 1900 federal censuses of Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. These are separate censuses and both are soundexed. In addition, the 1900 and 1910 censuses have a special schedule for the Indian population.

UCA to Offer Spring Genealogy Classes

The University of Central Arkansas in Conway is offering the following genealogy classes, taught by Desmond Walls Allen:

- **Blogging for Ancestors: Create a World-Wide Forum About Your Ancestors**
Class meets Tuesdays, March 4, 11, & 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

- **Researching Your Family History**
Class meets Wednesdays, March 5, 12, & 19, April 2, 9, & 16, 6:30-8:30 pm

- **Using Family Tree Maker 2008**
Class meets Saturday, March 1, 9:45 am-3:00 pm

To learn more about the classes and to register (early bird discount deadline is February 1, 2008), visit [UCA's Academic Outreach website](#).

In addition to genealogy classes, UCA offers non-credit classes in literature, losing weight, social dancing, Spanish for Gringos, contract bridge, meditation, landscaping, photography, grant writing, retirement planning and more!

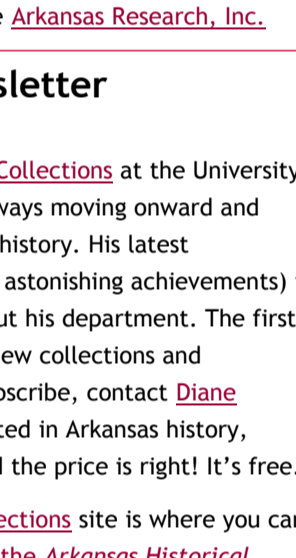
An Arkansas Source for Genealogy Books and CDs

It's always nice to deal with home folks when it's time to buy our genealogy books and CDs. Larry and Jean Bohannon of Dover, Arkansas, have a marvelous online business, [AncestorStuff.com](#). They offer a world-wide assortment of genealogy materials, often at discounted prices. Visit their site to sign up for their weekly newsletter.

And, if you're the author, compiler, or publisher of a genealogy book, and want AncestorStuff to carry your book, click on the "Sell Your Stuff" link at [AncestorStuff.com](#) to learn more.

A New Book from Arkansas Research, Inc.

Yes, it's all about dead folks. And we have even more! [Deaths Reported in the Arkansas Gazette, 1912](#) contains over 7,000 items about dead people from Arkansas and surrounding states. The *Gazette*, our state paper of record, published in Little Rock, ran a regular state-wide obituary column. It also published a brief list of state deaths. But the best stuff is from news items—murder and mayhem always made news; natural disasters and accidents generated copy. The list of names of people reported dead are posted on our website along with details about ordering the book.



The 1913 volume in this series is also complete, and the 1911 volume is in production now. These follow Oscar G. Russell's popular series on this subject covering 1914-1929, 1960, and 1990-2005. They're listed (with names) on our website, too. See [Arkansas Research, Inc.](#)

UAF Special Collections Publishes a Newsletter

Tom W. Dillard, head of [Special Collections](#) at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is always moving onward and upward in the cause of Arkansas history. His latest accomplishment (in a lifetime of astonishing achievements) is *The Arkansian*, a newsletter about his department. The first issue (Autumn 2007) showcases new collections and introduces staff members. To subscribe, contact [Diane Worrell, editor](#). If you're interested in Arkansas history, you'll enjoy this publication. And the price is right! It's free.

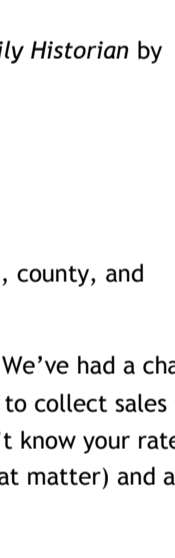
Remember, the UAF [Special Collections](#) site is where you can search or download the [index to the Arkansas Historical Quarterly, 1942-2000](#). If you need to search articles after 2000, there's a link on the site to the new [Index Arkansas project](#), managed by Joan Watkins, which covers a tremendous selection of Joan Watkins, which covers the predecessor to the project was *Arkansas Periodicals Index*.

NGS Announces Competitions and Awards

The National Genealogical Society announces January 31, 2008, as the deadline for submitting applications for the following competitions and awards. Nominate someone worthy or enter a competition yourself.

Check out their webpage at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](#) for details:

- NGS Rubincam Youth Award - newly revised - need not be an NGS member and may live anywhere in the world.
- NGS Home Study Course Scholarship
- Family History Writing Contest
- Genealogical Writing Contest
- NGS Quarterly Writing Contest
- Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship



AGS has an old publication on a new CD

AGS is now offering *Masonic Deaths in Arkansas, 1838-1916*, compiled by Arlene LaGrone, on CD. AGS first published the book in 1999, but following today's demand for material in electronic form, the book is now available in .pdf form on CD. It's been run through optical character recognition software, making all the text searchable. The book lists deceased members of Arkansas Masonic lodges, 1866 through 1916. The price is only \$12.50.

Other CDs in .pdf format available for \$12.50 each are:

- *Abstracts of Arkansas Reports, 1837-1861*, by Joan Thurman Taunton
- *Cemetery Inscriptions Published in Thirty Years of the Arkansas Family Historian* by Lewis E. Roberts
- AGS Ancestor Chart Series, 26 vols.
- AGS Family Group Sheet Series, 16 vols.

And for only \$15.00 on CD, AGS offers:

- *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Vols. 1-5*, a database searchable by name, county, and mother's maiden name.

Shipping is extra, of course. Download a [printable order form](#) for details. We've had a change in sales tax collection in Arkansas. As of Jan. 1, 2008, the law requires us to collect sales tax from Arkansas residents at the customer's local sales tax rate. If you don't know your rate, you can call your local state revenue office (or your local Wal-Mart for that matter) and ask. Sales tax collection only applies to mail order sales *within* Arkansas.

Administrative Stuff

To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](#), visit our website.

If you have friends and relatives who would like to receive this ezine, direct them to the [ezine sign-up link](#) on our website. Membership is not required to receive the AGS ezine, but we heartily encourage you to join our wonderful organization! [Membership details](#) are on our website.

If you have suggestions or comments about our ezine, rattle the editor's cage at [desmond@ipa.net](#).

Missed an issue of the AGS Ezine? Check our online file of [back issues](#).

To remove yourself from the AGS ezine list, [click here](#).