



Desmond Walls Allen and Lynda Childers Suffridge, editors  
Jan Hearn Davenport, list manager

Join us on August 9th!

REMINDER! Arkansas Genealogical Society invites you to join us for a one-day seminar, "Let's Get Started in Genealogy," that will be sure to stir up the Sherlock Holmes in you and get you started or re-started on the right genealogical track. No experience required. The speaker is Desmond Walls Allen. Join us for a fast-paced, good time. \$10.00 registration fee. Sign up now! Contact Jan Davenport to put your name on the list.

When: Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Where: Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, Arkansas. Click here for a map!

NEW MEMBERS

- Cindy Wilkinson  
North Little Rock, AR  
Stacy Deaton  
Camden, AR

[Just think, your name could be right here if you'd sent in your dues! You know you want to, so click on that link below and get it over with.]

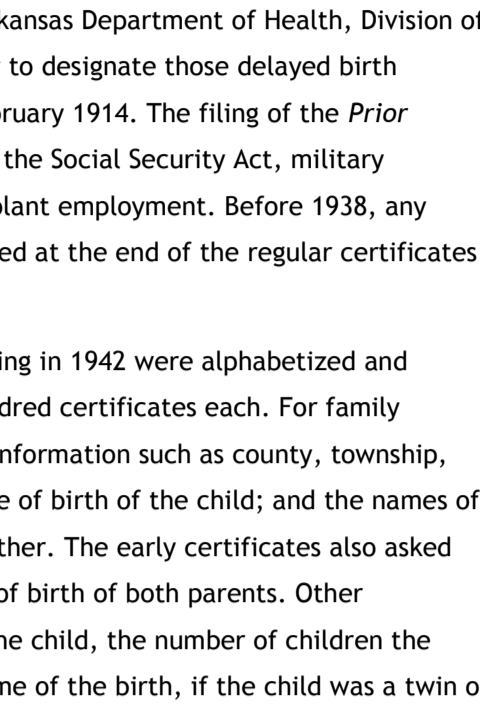
JOIN US!

AGS Membership Application

New Volume of AGS Priors Now Available

AGS announces the publication of a brand-new volume of Prior Births in Arkansas—this is volume six in the series. Visit the publications page on the AGS website to download an order form and learn more.

"Hummm," you're saying, "what are priors and how can they help me with my research?" Well, here's the details, right from the experts, Susan Boyle and Gloria Futrell, editors of the project:



"Arkansas state law did not require reporting of births until 1 February 1914. Between 1942 and 1985 hundreds of thousands of persons born in Arkansas prior to that date filed for delayed birth certificates from the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Vital Records. The agency uses the term *Priors* to designate those delayed birth certificates filed for persons born before 1 February 1914. The filing of the *Prior* certificates was driven by the requirements of the Social Security Act, military enlistments during World War II, and defense plant employment. Before 1938, any delayed certificates submitted to ADH were filed at the end of the regular certificates for births occurring in that year.

"The *Priors* certificates that were filed beginning in 1942 were alphabetized and arranged in volumes of approximately two hundred certificates each. For family historians, the certificates contain wonderful information such as county, township, city and address of birth; name, date and place of birth of the child; and the names of the parents, including maiden name of the mother. The early certificates also asked for the age, residence, occupation, and place of birth of both parents. Other information often includes the birth order of the child, the number of children the mother had borne or that were living at the time of the birth, if the child was a twin or other multiple birth, and if the child was legitimate or not. In addition, a witness who testified to the details of the birth was required to sign before a notary and his relationship was stated, as well as his address when he signed.

"Since 1995, certificates more than one hundred years old are legally available to the public. However, the Division of Vital Records lacked a complete and accurate index to them. In 1999, an agreement was reached between the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Genealogical Society by which AGS volunteers are allowed to index the certificates in a database set up and maintained at ADH. AGS is permitted to publish indexes to the one hundred-year-old information, and the Division of Vital Records is acquiring an accurate and complete index by which to access certificates in order to print copies for the public.

"This sixth volume contains the names of those persons who were born before 1908 and whose certificates were filed in 1950 through 1952. It also contains the 1907 births filed in 1942 through 1949 which were not eligible to be published in previous volumes. Data entry was recently completed for the certificates filed in 1953 and is now proceeding with the 1954 filings, which will be published in the future."

An even better idea: Librarians, the printed book is \$80.00—order your copy now; but fellow-genealogists, the searchable CD containing all six volumes is only \$15.00.

This newest volume contains an entry for one of my cousins, William Walter Canard of Stone County. I suspected his mother was a Grimes, and here it is: He was born 16 March 1886, and his mother was Nellie Grimes. It's there in a public record created in 1951, and the AGS index made the record accessible.

There may be treasures in these records for you, too!

Michael B. Dougan to Speak on Barack Obama's Arkansas Folks



On August 6, Michael B. Dougan will present "Barack Obama: The Arkansas Roots," at The Butler Center's Legacies and Lunch program at the Little Rock Library, 100 Rock, in Little Rock. Dougan is always entertaining—it's a performance you don't want to miss! Go here to read an abbreviated summary about who this delightful man is.

To bring you up to speed on the topic, last month's AGS Ezine had an item about Bradley Bunch's untimely death reported in the Arkansas Gazette by Opie Read. If you missed it, click here to read it. Bunch was Obama's 4th great-uncle.

Joy Russell, who wrote the original article about Obama's northwest Arkansas relatives sent this list about his line of descent from Nathaniel Bunch:

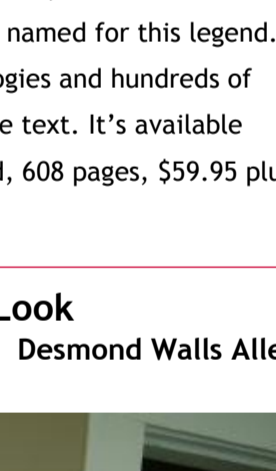
"Here's exactly how the relationship goes.... Anna Bunch Allred and Bradley Bunch were both children of Nathaniel & Sarah Bunch; Frances Allred was Anna's daughter; Margaret Bell Wright was Frances' daughter; Leona McCurry was Margaret's daughter; Madelyn Lee Payne was Leona's daughter; Shirley Dunham was Madelyn's daughter; Barack Obama, Jr., was Shirley's son."

For "the rest of the story," show up with a sack lunch at the Little Rock Library on Wednesday, August 6, at 12 noon. Or postpone lunch until 1:00 and waddle over to the Flying Fish in the River Market with some of us. It's the best place in town for an oyster po'boy. And ride to the event with someone else so parking won't be your problem—or park in the parking deck east of the library's lot.

Ozarks Genealogical Society Fall Conference

Melba Rector, Conference Chair

The Ozarks Genealogical Society will host its 28th Annual Fall Conference September 12-13 at University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Missouri.



Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, noted author and columnist for the Dallas Morning News is the featured speaker. His discussion will focus on useful research tips and twists discovered through his in-depth studies and research. The conference begins Friday evening September 12 and continues throughout the day Saturday, September 13.

Topic sessions include:

- How to Find the Maiden Names of Females
- Federal Bounty Lands for the Revolution, 1812, Indian, and Mexican Wars
- Loyalists and Tories during the American Revolution
- Migrations from the Peace of Paris in 1783 to the War of 1812

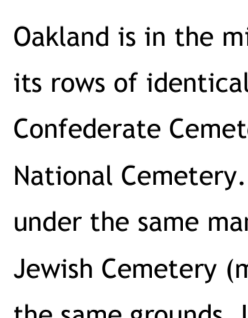
Bockstruck is well-known among genealogist. He heads the genealogy division of the Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Texas. He has authored books with topics on Colonial Soldiers, bounty land grants, naval pensioners and more.

The conference also includes mini-sessions on genealogical topics for guiding beginners and seasoned researchers on their quest for knowledge. A vendor showcase will also be available.

The Ozarks Genealogical Society, Inc. (OGS) was formally organized in September 1969 by a group of individuals brought together by their common interest in researching family history. OGS was chartered in 1979 as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Missouri. The goals of the Society are to encourage the research and preservation of family history, foster solid genealogical research practices, and preserve records of historical and genealogical interest.

The conference is open to the public. Registration information and additional conference details are available online at www.ozarksgs.org or by calling 417-885-9009. Discounted hotel rates are available until August 13.

New Book on an Old Ozarks Family: The Yoakums

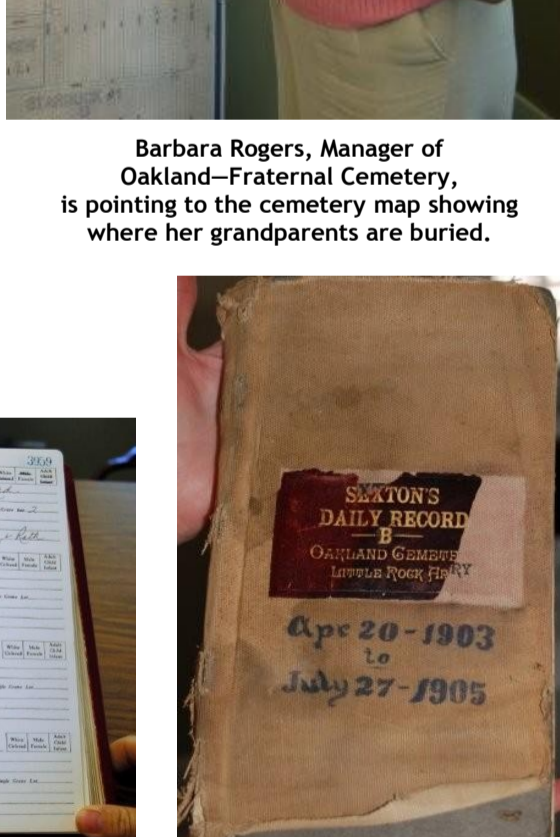


The Lives and Legends of the Ozark Yoakums: Westward Migration from Pennsylvania to the Ozarks and Beyond, by Audrey Lee Clouston-Becker, edited by Marilyn Jackson-Pfritzer, describes the origins of the Yoakum / Yochum / Yokum family who came from the German Palatine to America's eastern seaboard, then migrated westward with the new nation, settling in the White River region of the Arkansas-Missouri Ozark Mountains. This prolific family married into dozens of Ozark pioneer families (the family tree looks more like a bois d'arc hedge). Becker tells the fact and fiction of the famous legend of the "Yoakum Silver Dollar." (Silver Dollar City, a billion-dollar tourist attraction in Branson, Missouri, is named for this legend.) She filled the book with detailed genealogies and hundreds of diagrams and photographs accompany the text. It's available from Arkansas Research, Inc.—softbound, 608 pages, \$59.95 plus \$10.00 shipping.

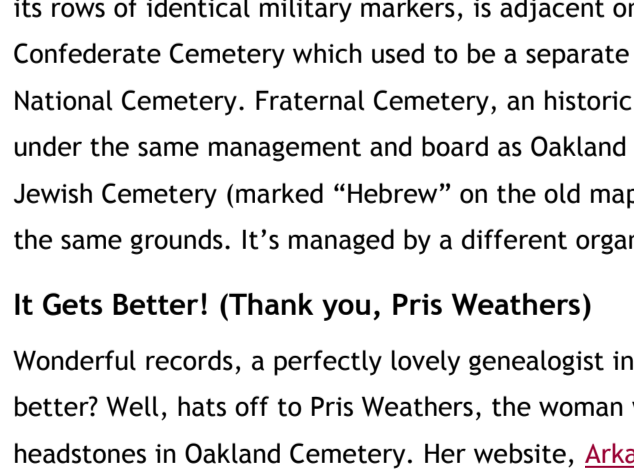
Oakland—Fraternal Cemetery, An Insider's Look

Desmond Walls Allen

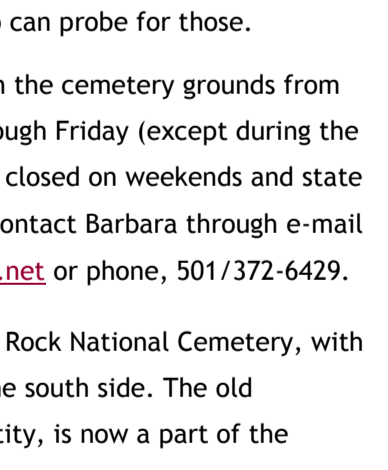
Oakland Cemetery is located in the eastern part of Little Rock and it's second only to Mount Holly as the most important graveyard in Pulaski County. Its 88 acres contain nearly 40,000 graves. Okay, it's one thing to walk over an acre-sized cemetery looking for a grave, but with a bone-yard the size of Oakland, it's essential to have a guide. Barbara Rogers, the current manager (and a long-time member of the cemetery's board) is one of us! She's a genealogist and knows how important dead folks are. She's an extremely competent manager and a meticulous record-keeper. She maintains the ancient card file kept in a giant fire-proof safe, but also keeps records in a database on computer. And she logs each burial into a chronologically-arranged record volume. She's behind a program to have a professional conservator restore the old record volumes.



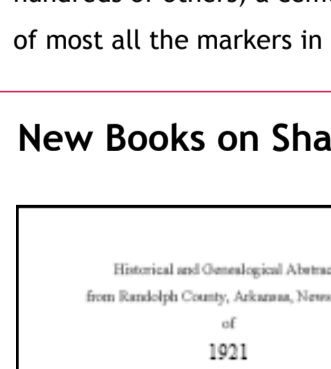
Barbara Rogers, Manager of Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery, is pointing to the cemetery map showing where her grandparents are buried.



Up-to-date cemetery records: the latest burial was yesterday.



One of the yet-to-be-restored record volumes.



The cemetery card file.

I asked Barbara if she could locate any grave in the cemetery and she said usually it was easy because the records were so thorough—the only hitch might come from the old records not being as specific about the grave's precise location as they are now. And occasionally they'll find a stone has sunk into the soil, but they have groundskeepers who can probe for those.

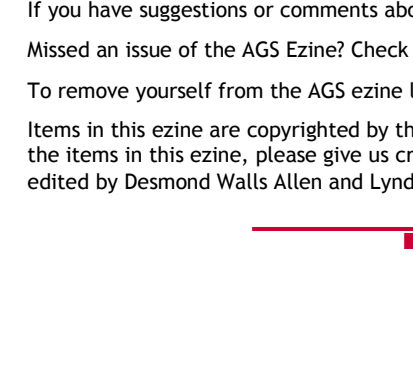
Barbara is in her office on the cemetery grounds from 8:30 to 4:00, Monday through Friday (except during the lunch hour). The office is closed on weekends and state holidays. For questions, contact Barbara through e-mail at oakfratcem@sbcglobal.net or phone, 501/372-6429.

Oakland is in the middle of a cemetery complex. Little Rock National Cemetery, with its rows of identical military markers, is adjacent on the south side. The old Confederate Cemetery which used to be a separate entity, is now a part of the National Cemetery. Fraternal Cemetery, an historic African-American cemetery, is under the same management and board as Oakland and it's across Barber Street. Jewish Cemetery (marked "Hebrew" on the old maps) is to the north of Oakland on the same grounds. It's managed by a different organization.

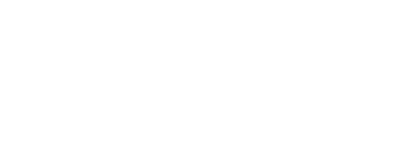
It Gets Better! (Thank you, Pris Weathers)

Wonderful records, a perfectly lovely genealogist in charge — what could make this better? Well, hats off to Pris Weathers, the woman who photographed over 25,000 headstones in Oakland Cemetery. Her website, ArkansasTies.com, has (among hundreds of others) a cemetery listing for Oakland. And it's possible to request photos of most all the markers in the cemetery.

New Books on Sharp and Randolph Counties



Arkansas Research, Inc., is pleased to announce publication of two new books of newspaper abstracts.



Burton Ray Knotts has completed Historical and Genealogical Abstracts from Randolph County, Arkansas, Newspapers of 1921 (softbound, \$36.00 plus \$7.00 shipping). This book, like Burton's others, contains everything a genealogist could wring from the newspapers.

Desmond Walls Allen has added yet another volume to the list of Sharp County books: Abstracts from the Sharp County Record Newspaper Published in Evening Shade, Arkansas, 1918 (softbound, \$24.00 plus \$7.00 shipping). The Great War and the flu epidemic were the big news items in 1918 and this newspaper covered it all from a local point-of-view.

The indexes to both books are posted online—just click on the "view the index" link with each book's description. For more details about these and other books, contact Desmond Walls Allen.

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@jpa.net.

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