



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

Greene County Museum

Betty Clayton

The Greene County Museum in Paragould is the city's latest proud achievement. It is in a house built in 1908 that was once the home of former Arkansas Governor J. Marion Futrell. Betty Busby and Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society brought the idea of a museum to the citizens at a public meeting and found there was enough interest and promise of support, so at that meeting a planning committee was formed. Soon after that meeting officers were elected and after four years of planning and preparation and hard work, the museum opened on January 12, 2008.

Currently there are thirteen rooms of displays with the following themes: Sports Hall of Fame; Kitchen; three rooms of Greene County History; two rooms of Military displays; Native American; Lost Landmarks; Schools/Education; Railroad; Industry; Children's. In the near future a display featuring Greene County Medicine will be opened. The displays are changed periodically so people can return to find new displays from time to time.

Ken Swan is the president of the board of directors and Betty Busby is the coordinator.

The address of the museum is 130 South Fourteenth Street, one block north of Highway 412 E.

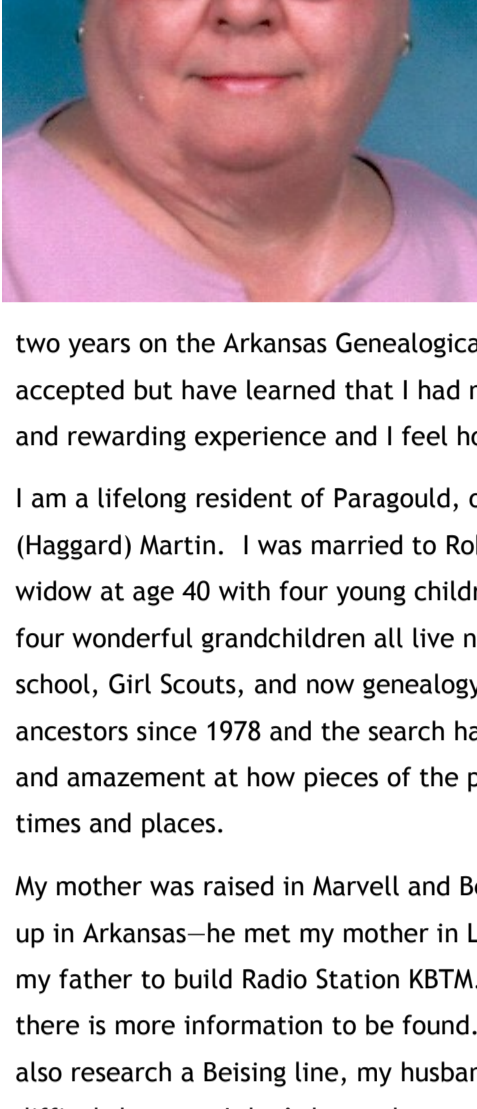
The museum is open Friday 10:00 to 4:00, Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00. For information or group tour arrangements, call Betty Busby at (870) 215-2407.

Right: Betty Busby, Below: the museum building (photos courtesy of Doris Hagen)

- NEW MEMBERS**
- Neil A Snider Charlotte, NC
 - Hank Hoyle North Little Rock, AR
 - Sharon Pascoe Murrells Springs, AR
 - Rosemary A. Brown Little Rock, AR
 - Vande Southerland Little Rock, AR
 - Mary Bonner Little Rock, AR
 - Jo C. Rowbotham Russellville, AR
 - Angie Smith Dover, AR
 - Louise Helms Robertson Forestburg, TX
 - Carolyn McClain Cardiff, CA
 - Jack G Henderson San Ramon, CA
 - Rosemary Nipps-Starling Wilson, NC
- JOIN US!**
- [AGS Membership Application](#)



Meet Our AGS Board Members: Betty Clayton



Arkansas Genealogical Society is run by a marvelous group of folks. We'd like for you to meet them in the coming months. We'll start with **Betty Clayton**. We asked her to tell us about herself and here's her response:

My name is Betty (Martin) Clayton, and I'm a 71-year-old active member of Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society in Paragould since 2000, serving on the Executive Board since 2002. I currently am the society's corresponding secretary and business manager of our two-year-old Genealogical Research Center. I have served

two years on the Arkansas Genealogical Society Board, a position I reluctantly accepted but have learned that I had more to offer than I thought. It has been a fun and rewarding experience and I feel honored to have been invited to join the board.

I am a lifelong resident of Paragould, one of three children born to John & Edna (Haggard) Martin. I was married to Robert Clayton for almost 18 years, becoming a widow at age 40 with four young children to raise alone. All of my children and my four wonderful grandchildren all live nearby. I have always been active in church, school, Girl Scouts, and now genealogy. I have been researching the Clayton ancestors since 1978 and the search has afforded me many good friends, fun times and amazement at how pieces of the puzzle seem to pop up at the most unlikely times and places.

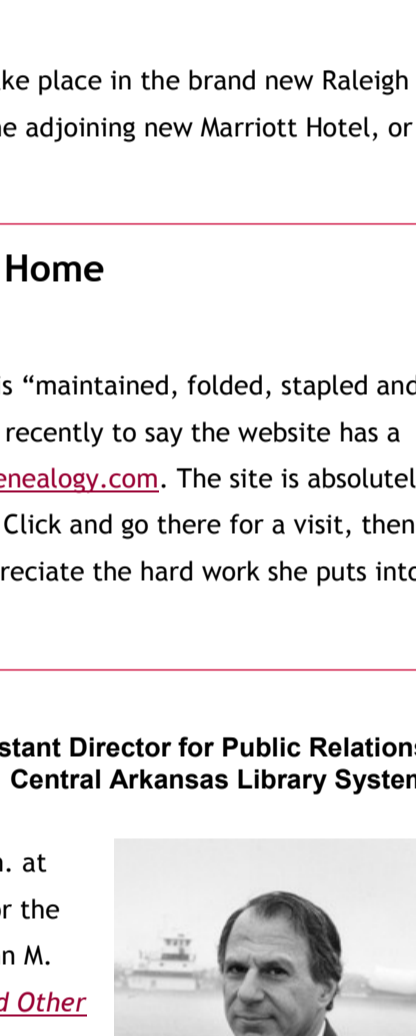
My mother was raised in Marvell and Beebe. My father was raised in Iowa but ended up in Arkansas—he met my mother in Little Rock. They came to Paragould in 1930 for my father to build Radio Station KBTM. My sister researched the Haggard line but there is more information to be found. In addition to the Clayton & Haggard lines I also research a Beising line, my husband's maternal line. That one has been very difficult because I don't know the names of Frank Beising's siblings nor all of his children. I am hoping for a breakthrough in Salt Lake City in December.

I look forward to the exciting things to come for A.G.S. in 2009 and the opportunity to work with all the wonderful board members.

Records Preservation and Access Committee

Lynda Childers Suffridge

The following was copied with permission from Jan Alpert, president of the National Genealogical Society from their "What's New at the National Genealogical Society" email sent to members. The issue of preserving records and keeping access to records affects every genealogical researcher including those in Arkansas. Please read to see what YOU can do to preserve public records and keep open access to them:



Records Preservation and Access Committee Brochures

RPAC is a joint committee sponsored by NGS (National Genealogical Society) and FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) which monitors state, federal and international regulations that affect preservation and access to public records.

The RPAC committee, which includes representatives from the major national genealogical groups, meets monthly by conference call to monitor and respond to changing legislation.

RPAC has recently published a tri-fold brochure which can be distributed along with a personal letter when writing to your state or federal representatives. Design of the brochure was sponsored by NGS. The brochure is the first of its kind to present the size of the genealogical community to legislators, address some of the myths about identity theft, and present the key position points on open records. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded and printed at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. If you are an NGS member you can also request copies (up to five) for your personal use from [Illyce MacDonald](mailto:IllyceMacDonald@ngsgenealogy.org). For non-members and members who want more than five copies the cost is as follows: 10 copies \$3.00, 25 copies \$6.00, 50 copies \$11.00. If more are wanted they are \$0.12 per copy plus shipping. We will enclose an invoice with the brochures. An e-mail request to membership@ngsgenealogy.org is the preferred method of ordering.

In 2007 APG (Association of Professional Genealogists), a member of RPAC, developed a "A Case for Public Records: A Position Paper," which is available at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac>.

2009 NGS Conference in the States

The [2009 Conference in the States in Raleigh](#) will take place in the brand new Raleigh Convention Center. Hotel accommodations are in the adjoining new Marriott hotel, or nearby at the Sheraton hotel.

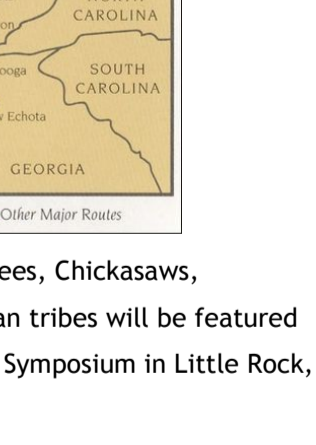
Johnson County Website has a New Home

The Johnson County, Arkansas, Genealogy web site is "maintained, folded, stapled and mutilated" by [Rebecca Webb Knox](#). She e-mailed us recently to say the website has a new domain name of its own: www.johnsoncountygenealogy.com. The site is absolutely filled with wonderful resources for Johnson County. Click and go there for a visit, then e-mail [Rebecca](#) and let her know how much you appreciate the hard work she puts into the project!

John M. Barry Lecture

Susan Hill Gelé, Assistant Director for Public Relations
Central Arkansas Library System

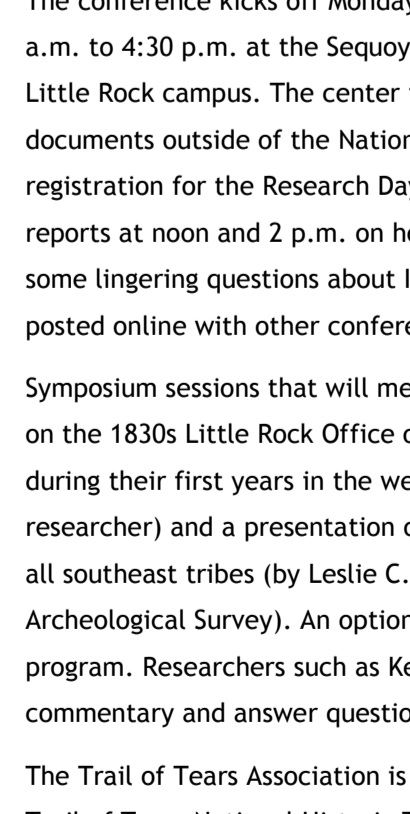
Please join us on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the main library at 100 Rock Street in Little Rock for the Ira Sanders Distinguished Lecture, presented by John M. Barry, author of *Powered Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports*; *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*, Winner of the 1998 Francis Parkman Prize from the Society of American Historians for the year's best book on American history and *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*. The lecture will feature a Q&A and Answer Session moderated by Steve Barnes. RSVP to asaulsberry@cal.org or 501/918-3029.



Editor's Note: If you aren't familiar with Barry's books, check your local library or visit [Amazon.com](#) to order copies of his books. My mother lived through the 1927 flood and Barry's book on the subject added to my understanding of the event. I just finished abstracting the Sharp County Record newspapers for 1918 and read about the flu epidemic as it developed in one local situation, but I also read Barry's book, *The Great Influenza*, to get the big picture. Don't miss this opportunity to hear a world-famous author! - DWA

Greene County Society Meeting

Kay Holmes



Jan Hearn Davenport, Federation of Genealogical Societies and Arkansas Genealogical Society 2009 National Chair will be the guest speaker at the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society meeting September 11th, 2008 at the Presbyterian Church located on the corner of 7th and West Main Street, Paragould, Arkansas at 7:00 P.M.

Jan's presentation will be the 2008 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 3-6, 2008. The Arkansas Genealogical Society will host the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2009 Annual Conference: Passages Through Time at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2-5, 2009.

Jan will also discuss the Fall Seminar, November 7 & 8, 2008, to be held at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas, and the guest speakers are Wendy Bebout Elliott, PhD and D. Joshua Taylor.

At the close of the September 11th meeting (approximately 8:00 PM), there will be a meeting for all those interested in the Old Military Trail, the one going from Chaulk's Bluff in Clay County to Jacksonport in Jackson County. For more information call Norma Addison at 870-239-9897.

FGS / AGS Conference News

Paula Stuart Warren, CG
National Publicity Chair for the 2009 FGS/AGS Conference

It's Time

Yes, time to get serious about the Federation of Genealogical Societies & Arkansas Genealogical Society Conference that will be held in Little Rock in a year on September 2-5, 2009.



Yes, 2009! Both AGS & FGS have already been planning and working on some special things for this conference.

You will hear evolving details about the conference as the months go by. In addition to articles in this e-zine, FGS/AGS has a Blog for family historians seeking additional news and details - it's second nature to us! The blog will share the very special aspects planned for this conference, the program, the varied speakers from across the U.S., the extensive Exhibit Hall, the city and area around Little Rock, and the research facilities in the area. This is the place to glean updated info right up until the conference begins.

It is easy to join in on the knowledge - just go to (wait! don't click yet, the link won't be active until Sept. 7) <http://www.FGSConferenceBlog.org> beginning Sunday, September 7th, 2008, to see the frequent news provided by the conference committee, area record custodians, speakers, exhibitors, seasoned conference goers, lovers of Arkansas and Little Rock, and many more contributors. By signing in, you may post comments and questions for the blog editor and the conference committee.

After checking the blog, make one more online stop at the FGS Website www.FGS.org to watch for the continuing conference details and for online registration that begins in January 2009. Watch for details on the AGS Website, too at www.agsgenealogy.org. For more info email: FGSConferencePublicity@comcast.net

Trail of Tears Conference in Little Rock

Kitty Sloan

Research into the removal from their homelands of Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Muscogees, Seminoles, and other American Indian tribes will be featured at the 13th annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 22-25.

Registration details and the preliminary conference schedule are posted online at www.nationalTOTA.org/general-info/conf-info/. Early birds who register by September 8 can save \$100 in fees. Conference registration includes three luncheons, three receptions, and two breakfasts.

Little Rock's Doubletree Hotel, 424 W. Markham St., will be conference headquarters. August 25 is the deadline for special room rates. Reservations can be made at 501-372-4371 or 800-222-8733. Ask for the Trail of Tears block.

The conference kicks off Monday, September 22, with a free Research Day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sequoyah Research Center on the University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus. The center is the largest repository of Indian Removal documents outside of the National Archives. Because seating is limited, pre-registration for the Research Day is required. Featured presentations will include reports at noon and 2 p.m. on how newly-found old documents are helping answer some lingering questions about Indian Removal. Details about the Research Day are posted online with other conference information.

Symposium sessions that will mention all relocated southeast tribes include a report on the 1830s Little Rock Office of Removal and Subsistence that provided supplies during their first years in the west (by Carolyn Kent of Jacksonville, an independent researcher) and a presentation on the Arkansas River route traveled by groups from all southeast tribes (by Leslie C. "Skip" Abernathy, Ph.D. of the Arkansas Archeological Survey). An optional \$25 river cruise is also part of the conference program. Researchers such as Kent and Abernathy will be on the cruise to offer commentary and answer questions.

The Trail of Tears Association is a support network for the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which commemorates the forced Cherokee removal of 1838-1839. TOTA membership is open to anyone interested in helping to research, preserve, interpret, and commemorate Indian Removal. Basic annual dues are \$25. An application form is posted at www.nationalTOTA.org/membership-info/. Information is also available by calling the TOTA office in Little Rock, toll free 1-800-441-4513 or contacting executive director Jerra Quinton at TATAJerra@aol.com.

TOTA has chapters in Arkansas and eight other states - Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Basic membership includes affiliation with one chapter, but members may affiliate with additional chapters for \$10 each. Members receive periodic newsletters plus a conference discount.

Editor's Notes

Desmond Walls Allen

Correction: Virginia Goeldner thoughtfully sent in a correction about Barack Obama's mother's name which should be [Stanley Ann Dunham](#).

Printing the Ezine: Folks, the AGS Ezine is a publication designed for online consumption. It's laid out in Microsoft Publisher in a format to be read on your computer screens. So when you attempt to print it, you'll run into problems. The material in the Ezine is not meant to have lasting value. It's just current news.

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! desmond@ipa.net—Thanks!

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.

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