



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

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## PBS Series with an Arkansas Connection to Air in April

Desmond Walls Allen

I received three e-mails in one day asking me what I knew about an upcoming television program about Peter Cornstalk and the Adams family of north Arkansas. So I called a friend at AETN (Arkansas Educational Television Network, our PBS station) and she said the program was an episode from *We Shall Remain*, a part of the *American Experience* series.

The [We Shall Remain website](#) says, “At the heart of the project is a five-part television series that shows how Native peoples valiantly resisted expulsion from their lands and fought the extinction of their culture—from the Wampanoags of New England in the 1600s who used their alliance with the English to weaken rival tribes, to the bold new leaders of the 1970s who harnessed the momentum of the civil rights movement to forge a pan-Indian identity. *We Shall Remain* represents an unprecedented collaboration between Native and non-Native filmmakers and involves Native advisors and scholars at all levels of the project.” [See a complete list of dates and episodes on the next page.]

On the website, you can watch the series “trailer” as well as film clips from the episodes.

*(PBS, continued on page 2)*

## ***The American Experience: We Shall Remain Episodes***

April 13, 2009 After the Mayflower

In 1621, the Wampanoag of New England negotiated a treaty with Pilgrim settlers. A half-century later, as a brutal war flared between the English and a confederation of Indians, this diplomatic gamble seemed to have been a grave miscalculation.

April 20, 2009 Tecumseh's Vision

In the course of his brief and meteoric career, Tecumseh would become one of the greatest Native American leaders of all time, orchestrating the most ambitious pan-Indian resistance movement ever mounted on the North American continent.

April 27, 2009 Trail of Tears

Though the Cherokee embraced "civilization" and won recognition of tribal sovereignty in the U.S. Supreme Court, their resistance to removal from their homeland failed. Thousands were forced on a perilous march to Oklahoma.

May 4, 2009 Geronimo

As the leader of the last Native American fighting force to capitulate to the U.S. government, Geronimo was seen by some as the perpetrator of unspeakable savage cruelties, while to others he was the embodiment of proud resistance.

May 11, 2009 Wounded Knee

In 1890, American Indian Movement activists and residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation occupied the town of Wounded Knee, demanding redress for grievances. As a result of the siege, Indians across the country forged a new path into the future.

Major Ridge, Cherokee Leader

*(PBS, continued from page 1)*

Also posted is a 25-minute video about the making of the series. There are behind-the-scenes photos and links to more information.

Wes Studi (the bad guy in *Last of the Mohicans*), portrays Major Ridge of the Cherokee. There's an emphasis in the series on Native American languages.

It's going to be a must-see event. The usual time for American Experience programs is Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. And you can sign up on the website for an e-mail reminder. Be sure to check AETN local schedules as the dates draw near.

But what if you're in my unfortunate position and don't receive the AETN signal? (I'll get it in June when the whole shooting match finally goes digital, but until then, I'm stuck with mooching a seat on a friend's couch on April 27th.)

Or I can [buy the DVD](#) of the series. It'll be released April 28th; the price is \$49.95 plus shipping. But the tightwad gene in me says I'll probably wait for the Central Arkansas Library System to acquire the DVD and I'll put my name on the hold list for it. And mooch that seat at a friend's house in the meantime. I'll bring popcorn!



# FGS/AGS Conference News: Calling All Gentlewomen and Gentlemen

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



If you are reading this Ezine, you obviously have a love for Arkansas, have Arkansas ancestry, or are simply so hooked by genealogy that you read everything that begins with “gen.” I hope you have already made plans to attend the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2009 Conference that is being more than ably hosted by the Arkansas Genealogical Society. Here are some reasons to attend that have the “gen” beginning:

- ✓ Genealogists surrounded by genealogists surrounded by genealogists. You are likely to find someone from an ancestral town in Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, or Oklahoma, among others. The conference name tags will have each person’s place of residence, such as “Joan. Q. Searcher, Clarksville, AR” and the networking can begin. It might even be a distant relative or someone from the county historical society.
- ✓ Genetics are a hot topic in genealogy and yes, there are lectures on DNA.
- ✓ Genius is what you will be if you attend this event and the envy of other genealogists.
- ✓ Gendarme is something never needed at these conferences.
- ✓ Genial is how you will find people all over the Exhibit Hall.
- ✓ Genre of genealogy writing is the subject of several lectures.

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(FGS, Continued from page 3)

- ✓ Generation gap is not found among those networking at the conferences. You do not have to divulge you age. Whether you are 24, 34, or 74, you are welcome.
- ✓ Generous is the nature of genealogists and the conference volunteers are definitely generous with their time. They can show you the ropes, direct you to a lecture room, tell you where a specific Exhibit Hall booth is, tell you about the shops and restaurants near the convention center - but they do not give foot rubs, thus bring comfortable shoes.
- ✓ Generators will not be needed during and after the conference. The energy that emanates from all parts of the conference will keep you going each day and for weeks afterward!
- ✓ Genuine describes all the components of this conference and all the registrants. Genuine genealogists generating generous gentility and a whole lot of geniality.



Don't miss the free ice-cream social on Sept. 1st.

Please don't groan. Now, if you haven't registered, please do so. If you don't, there may be a similar exercise to read in next month's AGS Ezine. It's up to you, now.

P.S.: The official conference dates are 2-5 September but those in the know are making arrangements to be there in time for the activities on the first day of September. On that day Registration opens by 3:00 p.m. Some of the conference features on that day include a free ice cream social, a 2.5 hour oral history workshop, and 2 hours on developing research plans. You do need to be a conference registrant to attend all 3 of these. The oral history workshop does have an extra fee for a great workbook that will be used in the session. For full details visit the conference website. [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org)

Death Records from the  
Sharp County Record Newspapers,  
Evening Shade, Arkansas, 1877-1906

By Desmond Walls Allen



Published by Arkansas Research, Inc.  
PO Box 202  
Conway AR 72032

Death Records from the  
Sharp County Record Newspapers,  
Evening Shade, Arkansas, 1907-1920

By Desmond Walls Allen



Published by Arkansas Research, Inc.  
PO Box 202  
Conway AR 72032

## New Books from Arkansas Research, Inc.: Death Records from the Sharp County Record Newspapers, 1877-1906 and 1907-1920

Desmond Walls Allen

“Dead people! We want more dead people!” Okay, I heard you. The *Sharp County Record* newspaper, published at Evening Shade, Arkansas, is full of dead folks. I’ve met all of them personally because I abstracted the paper from 1877 through 1920. It was like watching a long-running soap opera. And a few of the stars were my relatives. Some people have lawyers and politicians in their background, but I’m a step up the social ladder—my ancestor had a grog shop in a tent near the spring where the town of Evening Shade eventually sprouted.

If you’re a genealogist (and why would you be reading this Ezine if you weren’t?) you know how important newspapers are for death records. They come in many forms (see the side-bar on the next page). Content varies; some items only say a death happened, others report gory details about where the body parts were found when dynamite went off in fellow’s back pocket. I included every direct and indirect reference to deaths and even those where someone was only expected to die. Some of those folks didn’t follow through and die, but I threw them in anyway.

A few deaths were refuted—for example, a man in Stone County read of his death and wrote the newspaper to say he was fairly certain it wasn’t him who died. I left out animal obituaries even though the one for Judge McCaleb’s mule was eight column inches long and a heart-felt tribute.

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## Death records from newspapers:

- Local news items reported deaths, but the newspaper office didn't have any paid reporters. Instead, the editor relied on people with whom he came into contact to supply news.
- Regular correspondents wrote columns about the news from their communities and they often mentioned deaths.
- News items tell about deaths especially if the death resulted from an accident or a quarrel or if the deceased was remarkably old.
- Formal obituaries are unusual but they appear for prominent people and the editor's relatives.
- Tributes were often published by Sunday school classes. or fraternities such as Masonic lodges.
- Sometimes families inserted a "Card of Thanks" notice in the paper after a death mentioning appreciation for kindnesses shown during the last illness of a loved one.
- Items gleaned from "exchanges" (other newspapers with whom the editor swapped copies) often mention deaths.
- "State News" items are what we would call "wire-service" items today. The *Arkansas Gazette* supplied information to local papers.

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Altogether there are 7,451 entries (some folks are mentioned in more than one article) and 472 of those are for African Americans. As usual, I've posted the indexes to the books online (see the links below). [More details about the books](#) are listed on my website. The volumes are:

- *Death Records from the Sharp County Record Newspapers, Evening Shade, Arkansas, 1877-1906*, By Desmond Walls Allen, ISBN 978-1-56546-441-4, 297 pages, \$35.00 [[View the index](#)]
- *Death Records from the Sharp County Record Newspapers, Evening Shade, Arkansas, 1907-1920*, By Desmond Walls Allen, ISBN 978-1-56546-442-1, 340 pages, \$37.00 [[View the index](#)]

[Postage is extra; details are on my [website](#).]

These deaths are mostly from the northeast Arkansas counties of Sharp, Izard, Fulton, Lawrence, Independence, Jackson, and Randolph. Many are from outside that area. We've noted the places of residence or death in the indexes (see links above) for people outside the usual circulation are of the *Sharp County Record*.

Dead folks—we have them!



## The Butler Center has Moved to the Arkansas Studies Institute!

The new address for the [Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#) is 401 President Clinton Ave. (still known to many as Markham Street). It isn't hard to find—it shares the same parking lot as the Main Branch of the Central Arkansas Library System at 100 Rock Street.



Opening night activities for the new Arkansas Studies Institute which houses the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies were held Saturday evening, March 21st. Because ASI will house the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Archives and Special Collections which contains the papers of several governors of Arkansas, a platform-full of politicians, past and present, were on hand. Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, Bill Clinton, Jim Guy Tucker, and Mike Beebe all took turns at the podium.

## Arkansas Women's History Institute Workshop was a Success

In honor of National Women's History Month, the Arkansas Women's History Institute presented a workshop focused on women and traditional crafts on Saturday, March 28, at the [Mosaic Templars Cultural Center](#) in Little Rock. In addition to discussing women working with traditional crafts, the workshop included demonstrations of basket weaving by Julie Stow and tating by Kristyn Watts.

For more than 20 years, the Arkansas Women's History Institute has supported scholarly study of Arkansas women's history and promoted public awareness of the contributions women have made in the state's development. AWHI sponsors projects like this workshop to preserve and interpret the history of all Arkansas women.

AWHI welcomes new members. [Visit their website](#) or send a dues check (\$25 for regular members, \$10 for students) to AWHI, PO Box 7704, Little Rock, AR 72217.



As an interpreter at Powhatan Historic State Park, Kristyn Watts has an interest in preserving traditional crafts and teaching the public about women's history.

Julie Stow of Mountain View has demonstrated many traditional crafts at the Ozark Folk Center over the past 26 years, but her most treasured craft is basket making.



## Elvis Presley in Dermott, Arkansas, 1955



Yes, that's Elvis Presley. And he's holding Arkansas State Trooper Kenneth McKee's service revolver. To learn more about this interesting photo, visit Lonnie Strange's blog, ["A Strange Look at the Natural State."](#)

Lonnie is the granddaughter of Trooper McKee and a self-confessed "Student of History, Future Teacher, Swimmer & Coach, NCIS & SVU Fanatic, and Chocolate Connoisseur." She attends UA Fayetteville and she's an author for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Check out the photo of her with Bill Clinton on her blog.

Trooper McKee's long law enforcement career concluded as Sheriff of Washington County, a position he held for ten years before his death in April 2007.

Two of the other men in the photo are Bill Black and Scotty Moore and the photo was taken in Coley's Truck Stop in Dermott, Arkansas, in 1955. If you have photos of Coley's Truck Stop or the Twin City Diner, please let [Lonnie Strange](#) know about them.

## Free Books from Google!

Are you familiar with Google Books? The online giant has scanned millions of books and posted them online.

Here are some online books about Arkansas history that are available in complete form online, and they're free.

- [Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association](#) - John Hugh Reynolds
- [History of Methodism in Arkansas](#) - Horace Jewell
- [History of the Arkansas Press for a Hundred Years and More](#) - Fred Alsopp
- [Early Days in Arkansas](#) - William Pope

How do you search? Go to [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com) and choose "More" from the menu at the top of the page, then "Books." Choose "advanced search" to search for specific bibliographic items—title, author, ISBN, publisher, etc. If you're looking for complete books, not just title pages, enable the option "Full View Only" on the advanced settings page otherwise it will bring up millions of books that only have a title page scanned in or just a bibliographic reference.

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Pris Weathers



Pris is the creative genius behind the [www.ArkansasTies.com](http://www.ArkansasTies.com) website.

## Carroll County Historical Quarterly Has More About President Obama's Ancestry



Barack Obama

The current issue of the *Carroll County Historical Quarterly* (March 2009) has an interesting article by June Westphal on President Barack Obama's mother's maternal ancestry. His mother's female ancestry goes back to Carroll County, Arkansas, and includes the Wright, Allred, and Bunch families from Dry Fork.

- President Obama's mother was Stanley Ann Dunham
- Her mother was Madelyn Lee Payne
- Her mother was Leona McCurry
- Her mother was Margaret Isabelle Wright
- Her mother was Frances Ann Allred
- Her mother was Anna Bunch
- Her mother was Sarah Wade Ray

For details, see June Westphal's article!

The December 2008 issue of the *Carroll County Historical Quarterly* contained Shirley H. Pyron's article about Barack Obama's ancestry, and future articles are in the works about the President's family lines.

The [Carroll County group](#) publishes a high-quality, interesting quarterly filled with articles, abstracts, photos and news. New members are welcome! Dues are \$20 per year. Write Carroll County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc., PO Box 249, Berryville, AR 72616, or call 870/423-6312, or e-mail [history1880@windstream.net](mailto:history1880@windstream.net).

## Tim Nutt to Speak in Perry County—Don't Miss It!



Tim Nutt

Tim Nutt will speak to the Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society at the [Max Milam Branch Library](#), 609 Aplin Avenue (just west of the courthouse) in Perryville on Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Tim's presentation will focus on the Fourche La Fave River, which bisects Perry County. He'll talk about the importance of the river in the early development of the county, particularly on commerce, agriculture, and everyday life. The presentation will feature illustrations and photographs. Tim's presentations are always entertaining as well as educational.

Tim Nutt is the Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian in the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville. From 1997-2006 he was the founding Deputy Curator of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System. He served as the founding Managing Editor and Staff Historian of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* from 2003-2006, and currently holds the title of Special Projects Editor.

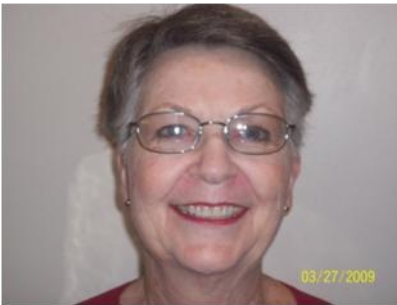
Although born in Jonesboro, Tim was reared in New Dixie, a *suburb* of Bigelow in Perry County. He is the youngest of seven children. He received a B.A. in history from the University of Central Arkansas and a master's in library science from the University of Oklahoma in 1992 and 1993, respectively.

Tim edited the *Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter* from 1994-2004, the *Pulaski County Historical Review* from 2002-2005, and currently serves as editor of the Washington County Historical Society's journal *The Flashback*.

His research interests include Catholicism in Arkansas, German Immigration to the state, and local censor boards, specifically the Little Rock Censor Board.

## Meet Our AGS Board Members: President Susan Gardner Boyle

My name is Susan Gardner Boyle and I am the current president of the Arkansas Genealogical Society. I have served on the AGS board of directors for ten years during which time I have been a co-chair of the Arkansas Priors Project. During the last few years I have served as editor of *The Arkansas Family Historian*, the quarterly journal of the Arkansas Genealogical Society. I have been pursuing my family history for more than thirty years and am a graduate of the Home Study Course of the National Genealogical Society and completed the Advanced Methodology, Irish Research, and British Research courses at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University. A former employee of the Arkansas History Commission, I continue to volunteer there, as well as at the Little Rock Family History Center, and with the FamilySearch indexing project.



Susan Gardner Boyle

I was born and raised in Schenectady, New York, graduated from the University at Albany and obtained a Masters degree there before teaching middle school social studies, English, and reading. My husband's transfer to Arkansas in 1976 landed us in Jonesboro where I obtained an MSE from Arkansas State University. It was in Jonesboro that I discovered in the library a microfilm copy of the 1860 census of Oswego, New York, my mother's home town, and I quickly became hooked on genealogy. Our move to Little Rock in 1983 provided me with a wider range of resources and the job in the Research Room at the Arkansas History Commission provided me the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of southern family history research while I continued my own.

My own and my husband's research has taken me to the records of New York, Pennsylvania, the New England states, Quebec and Acadia, Illinois, Minnesota, Washington, England, Ireland, Sweden and Germany. I have no Arkansas or southern research of my own, but my grandchildren's

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matrilineal lines have led me into the records of all the southern states back through Virginia to Maryland as well as Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. It has been an enlightening journey and there is still much to do. I have learned that membership and volunteerism in a genealogical society benefits the researcher as well as the whole genealogical community by the records, education, and contacts it produces.

I married my high school sweetheart, who indulges me in my family history pursuits, and we have two sons, two delightful daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren that we enjoy very much.

## Conway County Genealogical Society to Present Genealogy Workshops

Conway County Genealogical Society will hold genealogy workshops April 7, 14 and 21 at UACCM in Morrilton. The classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There is no charge for the classes but you must pre-register as seating is limited. The instructors are Roberta Anderson, Amanda Sefton, Euna Beavers, Mary Jean Hall and Emery Francis.

For more information and to register contact Euna Beavers at 501/354-4428 or [ebeavers@suddenlink.net](mailto:ebeavers@suddenlink.net).

- Tuesday, April 7, 2009: Where and How To Begin; Census Records
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009: Courthouse Research; Homestead Records
- Tuesday, April 21, 2009: Immigration and Passenger Lists; Military Records

What comes with the classes? Interaction with fellow genealogists and a great learning experience. Give up those Tuesday night re-runs on TV and learn new sources and methods to help you find your ancestors.



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## Administrative Stuff

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com](mailto:DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com) –Thanks!

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](#).

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### Links used in this issue that aren't given in full within the text:

[This list is here in the event you printed a hard copy of the Ezine and can't click on the links.]

Page 1: Join AGS <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/membership.htm>

We Shall Remain <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/>

Page 2: Buy the DVD <http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=3511812>

Page 6: More details <http://www.arkansasresearch.com/Descos.htm#shar>

Indexes <http://www.ArkansasResearch.com/SharpDeaths1877-1906.txt> & ...[SharpDeaths1907-1920.txt](http://www.ArkansasResearch.com/SharpDeaths1907-1920.txt)

My website <http://www.arkansasresearch.com>

Page 7: Butler Center <http://www.butlercenter.org/>

Page 8: Mosaic Templars Cultural Center <http://www.mosaictemplarscenter.com>

Arkansas Women's History Institute <http://www.ualr.edu/awhi>

Page 9: Lonnie's blog <http://lonniestranger.blogspot.com>, Lonnie's e-mail [lstrange@uark.edu](mailto:lstrange@uark.edu)

Page 10: Go to Google.com and search for the titles

Page 11: Carroll County group <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arcchs>

Page 12: Max Milam Library [http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/locations/pe\\_loc.html](http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/locations/pe_loc.html)