



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

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**This is your official  
invitation to join AGS.**

[AGS Membership Application](#)

**Welcome New Members**

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Little Rock, AR  
Patricia A. South  
Cheney, WA  
Richard & Stephanie Mason  
Sherwood, AR

## AGS/GCHGS Road Show

Betty Clayton, Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society

Last year the Arkansas Genealogical Society held a new event in Little Rock called “Road Show” that proved to be a success. The Board decided to make this an annual event and literally take it “on the road” to a different area of the state each year to make it available to more people. The purpose of these Road Shows is to allow AGS to see what local genealogical societies are doing around the state and offer an opportunity for genealogists to get answers to research questions. AGS partnered with Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society to sponsor this year’s Road Show in Northeast Arkansas.

The 2009 Road Show was held in Paragould at the city’s new Community Center facilities on March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Twenty GCHGS volunteers and eight AGS volunteers planned, set up and conducted a very successful show that was attended by approximately one hundred fifteen people from twenty Arkansas towns and one Missouri town.

Fifty-eight people sought free advice and assistance from the six “experts” on hand throughout the day. The experts were: Lynda Childers Suffridge, General Research; Dr.

*(Road Show, continued on page 2)*

*(Road Show, continued from page 1)*

Buford Suffridge, DNA; Susan Boyle, Family History; Dr. Dan Littlefield, Native American Research; Danny Honnoll, Civil War; Dan Hester, identifying photographs.

Although the Road Show was set up as a come and go event, activities were scheduled throughout the day to entice visitors to hang around and enjoy the exhibits and entertaining programs. We had ten vendors and exhibitors who were available to explain their part in genealogical research, including genealogical/historical societies, museums, book authors, artifacts and Civil War items. A “White Elephant” table full of useful genealogically related items was a favorite of many visitors who made a small donation for their choice of item or items on the table. It was interesting to see the variety of nice used items that had been donated. Very few items were left on the table at the end of the day and the donations helped defray expenses incurred with the show.

The event began with the presentation of Colors by the Civil War re-enactment group Col. Robert  
*(Road Show, continued on page 3)*



Presentation of Colors to open the Road Show by Danny Honnoll's Civil War re-enactment group Col. Robert Shaver Camp #1655 and Bryce Chandler, portraying a Civil War Drummer Boy.

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Shaver Camp #1655, led by Danny Honnoll, Commander. Welcome addresses were given by GCHGS President, Norma Addison, Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill and AGS special events chairperson, Jan Davenport, followed by introduction of the “Experts”. AGS President Susan Boyle addressed the group just before the ending program.

There were four short program segments spaced throughout the day, beginning with Bryce Chandler who presented a wonderful portrayal of an orphan who joined the Civil War as a drummer boy. Retired attorney Robert Branch presented a history of Greene County. Danny Honnoll, Commander of the Civil War re-enactment group that presented the Colors to open the Road Show, spoke about the Civil War. Judy Downs, with the Northeast Arkansas Living Historians group, talked about women’s role in the Civil War. She and other members of the Heritage Dancers of Randolph County closed the event with several dances popular during the Civil War era. This group is made up of ordinary citizens, young and old, who simply love these dances and love to put on their show to entertain anyone interested in having them. This was probably the favorite event of the day for most people attending the event.

AGS will announce the location of the 2010 Road Show at a later date. Check their website and the Ezine website later in the year for that announcement.



## FGS/AGS Conference News: Conference Costs

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



### What's free at the conference?

Free begins with food, well ice cream. Register for the conference <http://www.fgs.org/2009conference/> and you may attend the free ice cream social on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Thirsty during the conference? There will be free water service during the four days of lectures. Want to browse through the Exhibit Hall? That is free and you don't even have to be registered for the conference to do this. It doesn't cost you an extra cent to sit at a table in the Exhibit Hall and strike up a conversation with another genealogist. If you find a cousin, that is also free! I am sure that with enough pressure, some of the conference committee members could be convinced to sing a song. You could hear that for free, but it might also cause you to leave the conference!

### Why are there fees to attend the rest of the conference?

Think of your household and business budgets and all the categories. Some conference costs for FGS and other conferences include printing and shipping of the preliminary flyers, printing and shipping of the 16 page program booklet to advertise the conference and other advertising costs. Fees involved with the conference section of the website, signage at the conference, rental of the easels

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for the signs, water in the meeting rooms, renting the lecterns, microphones, overhead projectors, extension cords, chairs, tables, carts for projectors, stationary supplies, and the booths and supplies for registration, printing of name tags, meal tickets, on-site schedule and maps, and for lots of other necessities. Rather than dramatically increasing the registration fee due to increased costs, the syllabus is now on CD. A paper copy can be ordered for \$20.00 when you register. Convention centers can cost up to \$50,000 and if there is a lower price, instead a service fee is attached to other services which means the cost is still high.

### **Are the volunteers paid?**

You don't have to pay them. The folks from Arkansas and other states that have been working on the conference for a few years are not paid. Nada. Zilch. Nothing. Zippo. It's a way of sharing our knowledge, experience, and giving back to the genealogical community. It's hard work, but also fun and selfishly, we enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of the conference registrants.

### **Can I save money?**



Register by June 2d to save \$50.00 off the full conference price. Find a roommate to share a hotel room. Check the conference blog for the [roommate matching service](#). Work with a friend, spouse, or other relative to share knowledge. Unless you can clone yourself very quickly, you can only attend one session each hour. Have the other person attend a different lecture and each night compare what you have learned during that day. At a luncheon, note the places of residence on the name tags of others at your table. One person might be from an ancestral state or from a city with a courthouse or library you want to know more about. Start the conversation about that place and gain some free knowledge.

*(FGS, continued on page 6)*

# Ancestry's Special FGS Opportunity

Jan Hearn Davenport

Ancestry.com is excited to provide attendees of the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies annual Conference with the opportunity to scan their family records, for free, on a high-speed scanner. It's a unique opportunity to become familiar, first-hand, with the Ancestry.com record digitization process.

## Details about Scanning

Conference attendees will be able to sign up for 15-minute scanning sessions. Ancestry.com imaging specialists will be operating the scanner. Ancestry.com will be using a high-speed, loose-leaf scanner that will scan documents and photographs in full color. The scanner can scan about 200 family photographs or loose-leaf documents during a 15-minute session. Scanned images will be saved to flash drives (provided at no cost by Ancestry.com) and given to attendees for their own personal use. (Note: Scanned images will NOT be uploaded to the Ancestry.com website by Ancestry.com personnel.)

There is always a possibility that damage to older, more fragile documents may occur during the scan process. Ancestry.com urges patrons to use their best judgment when choosing documents to be scanned.

*(FGS, continued from page 5)*

## Can I learn while I eat?

Save time by registering for one of the daily luncheons (or a Friday breakfast). Other than the Wednesday Networking Luncheon, each meal event has a speaker that will both educate and entertain you. The Networking Luncheon will have tables set aside for just meeting other genealogists and sharing research, info on libraries, websites, or whatever you care to discuss. Other tables will have signs that designate them for a specific topic, such as genealogical blogging, Arkansas research, working on applications for hereditary organizations, Tennessee research and other topics. These tables won't have a monitor, they are set aside for free discussion on the topic. Please feel free to request a specific table networking topic at [FGSPublicity@FGS.org](mailto:FGSPublicity@FGS.org). The final list will be posted on the Conference Blog this summer.

## Do I need a reminder?

Don't forget to mark your calendar so you don't forget the deadline for saving that \$50.00 on full conference registration. Better yet, go ahead and register now.

Spring 2007



Spring 2008



Spring 2009



## Stuttgart Public Library: Back in Business

By Jerrie Townsend, Library Director, Phillips Community College UA

Nine months to the day after a devastating tornado visited the community on May 10, 2008, the [Stuttgart Public Library](#) reopened its doors on February 10, 2009. The building suffered extensive damage that left it with a leaking roof and glass particles “all over the place.” The large air-conditioning units located on the roof were ripped off and moved to other places leaving gaping holes. All of the materials located in the library had to be moved out, cleaned or repaired when possible, and then moved back inside and unpacked. All of the carpet in the building had to be replaced.

In the interim, the library borrowed a bookmobile unit from the Massanutten Regional Library in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Parked on the Mayflower Grocery Store parking lot, patrons were still able to check out their favorite books or videos or other audio visual materials. Staff members heartily acknowledge the assistance they received from the local volunteers as they worked toward the reopening of the library.

According to Assistant Director, Anna Bates, library materials have been sent to the library from several agencies to replace items that were damaged. In addition to the Arkansas State Library, the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, the Jackson County Library, and the Craighead County/Jonesboro Public Library have provided items for the

*(Stuttgart library, continued on page 8)*

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collection. The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is working closely with Library Director Ted Campbell to identify and replace genealogy materials that were damaged as a result of the storm.

The grand reopening reception was hosted by the library staff and board members, and patrons were excited about seeing their old friend back in business. The library is currently holding a book sale to raise funds for the replacement of the sprinkler system and landscaping that was not covered by their insurance.

## Dr. Ruth Hawkins Appointed to the Arkansas History Commission



Dr. Ruth Hawkins

Governor Mike Beebe has announced the appointment of Dr. Ruth Hawkins of Jonesboro to the Arkansas History Commission. Her term expires January 14, 2016. She replaces Harold Turman of Paragould.

Dr. Hawkins is director of the Arkansas Heritage SITES program at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, which includes responsibilities for development of the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center at Piggott, the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum at Tyrnza, and the Lakeport Plantation near Lake Village. She also is Executive Director of Arkansas Delta Byways, Inc., a tourism promotion association serving 15 counties in Eastern Arkansas.

Dr. Hawkins holds a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri, a Master's degree in Political Science from Arkansas State University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Mississippi.

# Russell Baker Announces His Retirement

Lynda Childers Suffridge

Russell Pierce Baker, senior archivist and Archival Manager at the Arkansas History Commission, announced recently he is retiring effective June 1, 2009 after 40 years. He is an archivist, lecturer, teacher, historian, and author of Arkansas history and genealogy. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he was Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in history in 1967. He received a Masters in Public History from UALR in 1985.

Russell has always “gone the extra mile” in the promotion of genealogy and in the education of researchers in Arkansas records since his employment began in 1970 at the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives. Russell has donated his services and lectures to organizations and genealogical societies all over the state for many years.

He is the one you always wanted to ask for help when you visited the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock. Russell knows the records better than anyone and always makes suggestions of sources to aide in research - often suggesting records you might not know existed.

Early in his career with the AHC, Russell visited every courthouse in Arkansas helping select records for the Family History Library’s microfilming project of Arkansas county records. Through this endeavor, he learned what was and was not available in every county.



Russell Baker

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In addition to his duties at the AHC, he taught history and archival courses at several local colleges and universities and is currently at Little Rock campus of the U of Phoenix. He also taught in a number of programs on continuing education for the Society of American Archivists. He is a retired member of the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists and has been a Certified Archivist since 1989.



Russell is author of several articles on southern history and religion in local, regional, and national publications including articles for the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. For genealogists and historians his award winning references, *Arkansas Township Atlas 1819-1930* and *Arkansas Post Offices, From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory, 1832-1990* recently revised and updated, are invaluable for Arkansas research.

He is a life member, past president, and current board member of the Arkansas Genealogical Society and has served on the board since 1975. He has spent his entire career in public service.

Russell also mentored many former employees starting them on the road to greater involvement in the genealogical community. He continually taught the staff and researchers alike as they visited the research room not only about the incredible collection he helped to develop for genealogists at the AHC but how to best use and access the records.

Russell's personal e-mail address is [gobgob3@mindspring.com](mailto:gobgob3@mindspring.com).

# New Calendar for Arkansas Historical & Genealogical Events

Desmond Walls Allen

“When is the Civil War Roundtable meeting? And wasn’t there something else that night, too?” You’ve said this very thing yourself, haven’t you? Or you dove into a pile of mail to retrieve a postcard from the Old State House with details about an event you wanted to attend.

Well, if we’ll all pitch in, there’s a solution. And Pris Weathers is making it happen. Go to Pris’ website: [www.ArkansasTies.com](http://www.ArkansasTies.com) and click on the “History Events” link at the bottom of the page. You’ll bring up a Google calendar with all kinds of fun things to do that involve Arkansas history and genealogy events.

You can view events in a weekly or monthly format. When you click on an event, you’ll get details and even a map with directions. Who knew Friday, May 1st could be this exciting:

- Izard County Pioneer Day at Melbourne
- Pocahontas Founders’ Day at Pocahontas
- Sandwiching in History: a tour of the Craftsman-style house at 2322 Battery in Little Rock
- A Reception for Walter Brown at UA Fayetteville

Want to know more about these and dozens of other events? Click on the link above.

That’s exciting enough, but here’s the good part: we want YOU to add your group’s events, too. If you’re comfortable adding events to a Google calendar, e-mail [Pris Weathers](mailto:Pris Weathers) and she’ll allow you editing privileges for this calendar. If you’re not quite ready for that step, just e-

*(Calendar, continued on page 12)*



## What Kinds of Events Are We Looking For?

- Genealogy society meetings
- Historical society meetings
- Special events organized by these groups
- Museum exhibits
- Community-sponsored historical events (Pioneer days, etc.)
- Monument dedications
- Cemetery decoration days
- Lineage society events
- Family Reunions
- Ancestor Fairs
- Antiquarian book sales
- Civil War events
- Living History demonstrations
- Book signings for any historical- or genealogical-interest books
- Anything else that might be of interest to genealogists and historians

*(North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, Continued from page 11)*

mail Pris with details about your event and she'll post it on the calendar for you.

If you've never played with Google calendars, it's time to have a learning experience. First, go to [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com) and click on the "more" link. Then choose "calendars." If you don't have a Google account, you'll need to create one. It's free! And there's an advantage to having a gmail.com e-mail address: it won't change when you switch Internet Service Providers. You don't have to go to Google every time you want to check your gmail account—read the "help" screens and learn how to make Outlook Express, Outlook, or whatever e-mail program you use check your gmail account automatically when it checks your other e-mail account(s). (Go to "Gmail Help," then "Access," then "POP.")

Create a Google calendar for yourself—add vacations, family events, PTA meetings, football games, birthdays, etc. That learning experience will be helpful in adding to the History Events Calendar. You might choose to share your Google calendar with other family members—you can decide if they can just view the calendar or whether they can add and edit events.

You can add the History Events Calendar to your list of Google calendars (as well as Irish holidays and moon phases, among others). Or you can just add selected events from the History Events Calendar to yours. If you have a website, you can add the History Events Calendar so that it comes up on your website just like it does on Pris' [ArkansasTies.com](http://ArkansasTies.com) website. Anytime the calendar is changed by any of us, it automatically updates on everyone's sites.

Create a Google calendar for your genealogy society or family organization. The possibilities are endless! Ready to get started? Play with the [History Events Calendar](#), then build your family calendar and put a stickie-note on your computer monitor about [e-mailing Pris](#) with anything that comes up that should be on the History Events Calendar.

## The Old State House Needs Your Help

Help preserve our past—join [Old State house Museum Associates \(OSHMA\)](#). The Old State House was our original territorial capitol building. It's still there at 300 West Markham in Little Rock, thanks to the efforts of a lot of dedicated folks through the years. The old building has seen a lot of history and OSHMA is dedicated to preserving it. They fund tours, programs, events, workshops, seminars, and exhibits. You can do your part for as little as \$35 a year for basic membership. (There are other categories of membership—learn about them on the [OSHMA website “Join” page](#).)

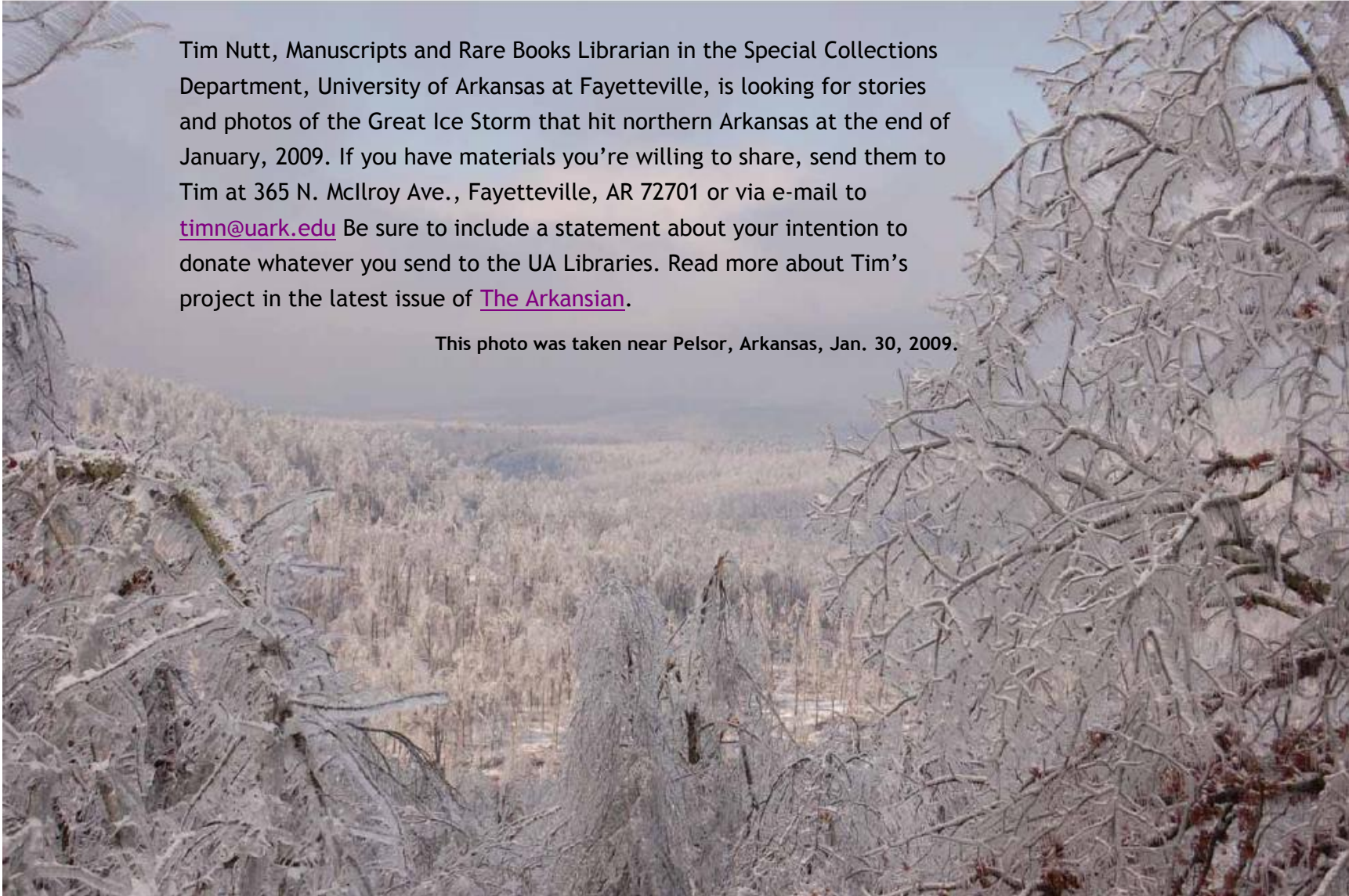
To see the wide variety of activities going on at the [Old State House](#), check the Museum's website. To really experience the Old State House, gather some friends or family and go in person. Hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday, 1 to 5 on Sunday, and admission is free!



## UAF Special Collections is Looking for Ice Storm Stories

Tim Nutt, Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is looking for stories and photos of the Great Ice Storm that hit northern Arkansas at the end of January, 2009. If you have materials you're willing to share, send them to Tim at 365 N. McIlroy Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701 or via e-mail to [timn@uark.edu](mailto:timn@uark.edu) Be sure to include a statement about your intention to donate whatever you send to the UA Libraries. Read more about Tim's project in the latest issue of [The Arkansian](#).

This photo was taken near Pelsor, Arkansas, Jan. 30, 2009.



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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](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website. (<http://www.agsgenealogy.org>)

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](#) ([DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com](mailto:DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com))

Missed an issue of the AGS Ezine? Check our online file of [back issues](#). (<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/e-zine.htm>)

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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>

Page 5: Roommate matching service: <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/2009/02/looking-for-roommate-for-fgsags.html>

Page 7: Stuttgart Public Library: <http://www.stuttgartpubliclibrary.org/>

Page 11: Pris Weathers' e-mail: [arkansasties@gmail.com](mailto:arkansasties@gmail.com)

Page 12: Calendar: <http://www.ArkansasTies.com/Calendar.htm>

Page 13: OSHMA: <http://www.oldstatehouseassociates.org/about>

Join OSHMA: <http://www.oldstatehouseassociates.org/join>

Old State House: <http://www.oldstatehouse.org/>

Page 14: The Arkansian: <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/news/arkansian>