



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

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Welcome New Members

Linda Ann Douglass Roush

Ridgecrest, CA

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Rogers, AR

Are You a Genealogy Thief?

Desmond Walls Allen

Pris Weathers was excited about a new book on her Box family line. She ordered a copy but was dismayed to find it was just a compilation of information pulled from Internet sources. Even worse, some of the information was actually hers. It wasn't a coincidence—the compiler had swiped information Pris had posted on the Internet about her family. And with no attribution or source citation pointing to her work, she'd been robbed by a genealogy thief!

Not a complainer, Pris just kept the book and learned a lesson from the experience. It was her first encounter with a “genealogy thief.” But some folks are genealogy thieves and don't even know it. “It's my family, too,” they reason, as they copy the information.

Here's Pris' checklist to see if you qualify as a “genealogy thief”:

- Have you copied and pasted personal information (not facts) and notes from a web site to your family tree program, word processor, or other web site without asking permission?

(Genealogy Thief, continued on page 2)

(Genealogy Thief, continued from page 1)

- Have you copied facts on more than 10 to 20 people from a web site?
- If you are only copying the names with a birth or death date or even a marriage, there would be no polite need to cite your source (except to give someone else credit if there's an error), however, if you copy complete birth, death, marriage, and location information then you should cite your source. The reason to cite your source is that you did not previously have all this information and you have now copied someone else's compilation of those facts.
- Have you published and sold a book or CD with a significant portion of it *not* being your personal research?
- Have you given away family photographs that you printed off the Internet to other family members without permission from the website owner?



- Have you copied someone else's source citations thinking that no one would ever know you didn't go to the original source yourself?
- Have you ever used someone else's information, looked it up on the Latter-day Saints' index and used that index for your source?
- Have you requested a lookup or placed a query and then not bothered to thank the person who responded?
- Have you ever said to yourself, "Oh, they have such a big web site, they don't care about me or they won't know"?

Pris continues, "If you have done any of the above, then you are a genealogy thief! Will anyone know you are a thief? Well, yes, legitimate researchers will probably know where the research came from. Mistakes

(Genealogy Thief, continued on page 3)

(Genealogy Thief, continued from page 2)

will stick out like a sore thumb, and you will be talked about and avoided like the plague. Is this what you want? I think that everyone has made mistakes at some time or another, so therefore I propose the following ways to redeem yourself!”

“Remove the information from your database. Cite the correct source. (If you are not sure what to put ask for help!) Send by mail or email a letter owning up to the situation and apologizing for it.”

“It is never to late to be polite and you just might benefit even more for being honest.”

[Pris has even provided sample apology letters on her website. See <http://www.arkansasties.com/Special/GenThief/AreYou.htm>.]

Do you want to know more about sharing your genealogy research? National Genealogical Society has posted [“Standards for Sharing Information”](#) on their website. Experienced folks carefully and thoughtfully prepared a policy statement on this subject. Read it! You might want to put a link to it on your family website.

Some folks make the argument that “facts” can’t be copyrighted, and under some circumstances, they can’t. But how do you know those facts aren’t in error if you don’t go to the original sources and see for yourself? Until you do, it’s wise to give a precise source citation to exactly where you found your “facts” so you don’t receive credit for someone else’s mistakes.

One way to avoid the issue about copyrighting facts is to write those facts in narrative form and supply more information about your ancestors. Your words, thoughts, and ideas expressed in written form are certainly copyrightable. Under the latest copyright laws, you don’t even have to affix a copyright notice to your work for your words to be protected, but it’s a wise idea. The form of the notice goes like this: the word “copyright” followed by the copyright symbol © then the year and the name of the copyright holder. Thus, Copyright © 2009 Desmond Walls Allen. [Tip: to make the copyright symbol in Microsoft Word, hold the control and alt keys and press “c”. Also in Word and in other programs, look for the “insert” menu and then “symbol” and choose the copyright symbol from the menu.]



My Website Got a Facelift!

Desmond Walls Allen

You all know I have been selling genealogy books for 25 years. It started in 1984 with publication of Faulkner County's 1890 tax list, a part of Arkansas Genealogical Society's project to reconstruct the missing 1890 federal census. I started compiling military records (so many men, so little time) and newspaper abstracts. I added books by friends of mine.



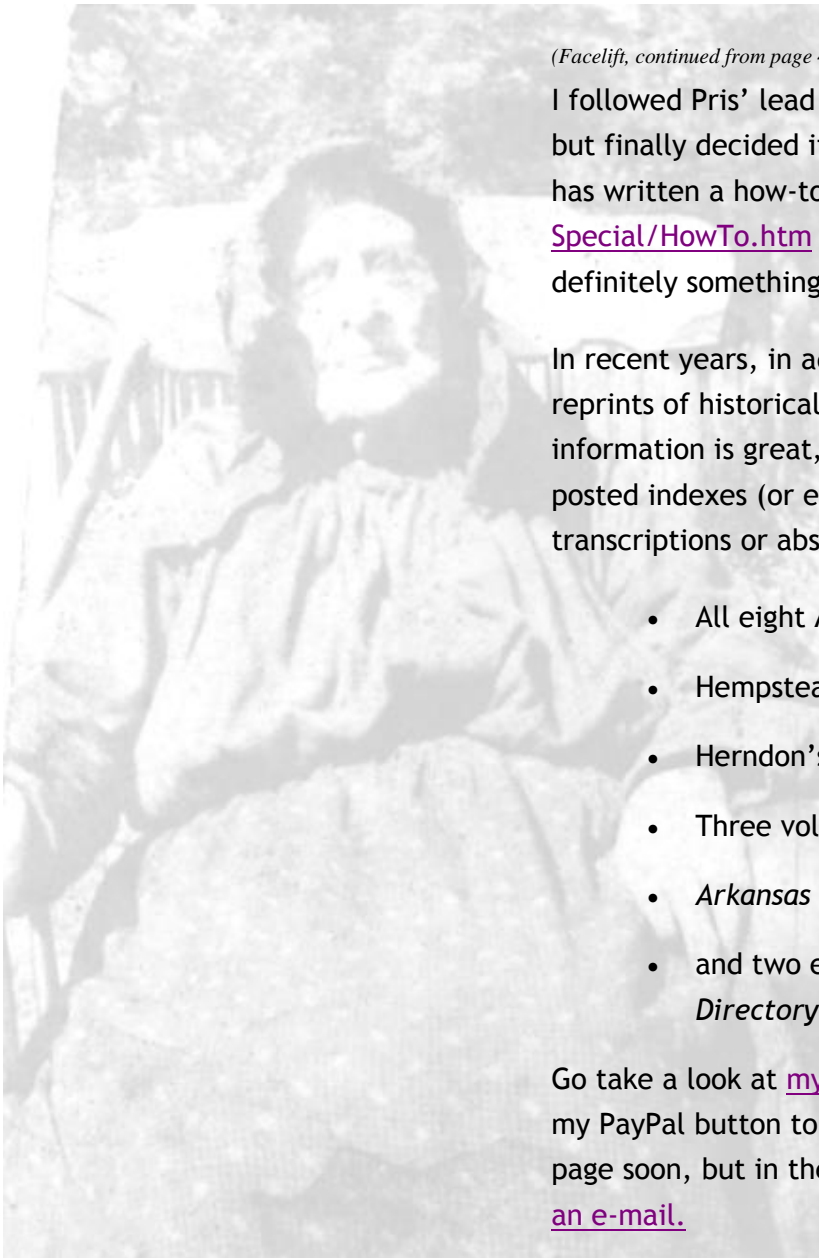
New ArkansasResearch.com
web banner created by
Polly Walter

About 1996, it looked to me like the Internet was here to stay and I decided to put up a website to sell my books. I bought a copy of *Teach Yourself HTML in a Weekend*, and the website was off and running. I discovered I could post indexes to books because that's what genealogists want to see first. So, like

the character Topsy in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, my website just grew. I tried to keep it sleek and simple so folks on dial-up wouldn't doze off waiting for my pages to load. But I've known for some time it needed a facelift.

Thanks to a lot of encouragement from Pris Weathers (of www.ArkansasTies.com fame), I finally got busy and re-wrote my www.ArkansasResearch.com website. I reorganized it and gave it a girly background (faded roses seemed ideal to me). I added a picture of Patsy the Witch, my favorite ancestor (she's my great-grandmother's great-grandmother along my maternal line).

(Facelift, continued on page 5)



(Facelift, continued from page 4)

I followed Pris' lead about adding Google ads. I'd resisted advertising for a long time but finally decided if Wal-Mart liked Google ads on their site, I'd put them on mine. Pris has written a how-to article about those ads – go to <http://www.arkansasties.com/Special/HowTo.htm> to learn more. (If your society or family has a website, this is definitely something you ought to look into.)

In recent years, in addition to traditional compilations of resource materials, I've added reprints of historical Arkansas works on CD. These have proved very popular because the information is great, the price is right, and folks know what's in the books because I've posted indexes (or examples). I've scanned the actual books themselves—they aren't transcriptions or abstracts. They include:

- All eight Arkansas Goodspeed volumes
- Hempstead's *Historical Review of Arkansas*
- Herndon's Centennial History of Arkansas
- Three volumes of Arkansas' Territorial Papers
- *Arkansas and Its People* by D.Y. Thomas
- and two editions of R.L. Polk's *Arkansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory*

Go take a look at [my new website](#)! It's still a work in progress. I haven't converted all my PayPal button to the new format, but they all function. I'll add an e-mail sign-up page soon, but in the meantime, if you want to be notified about new books, [send me an e-mail](#).

FGS/AGS Conference News: The Arkansas Presence at the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference is Everywhere

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

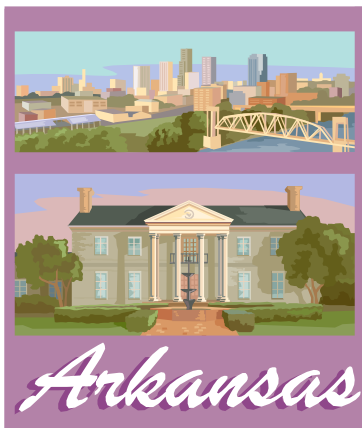


Sure, the conference is taking place in Arkansas, Little Rock to be exact. It's this coming September 2-5. Sure, there are people from all over Arkansas that have registered for the conference. (There is still time to register and join them!). Of course, there will be a Hospitality Booth at the conference to promote not just Little Rock, but all of Arkansas. Yes, there are Arkansas genealogical and historical societies already signed up to be in the Exhibit Hall. (There is still time for your society to reserve a booth.) You bet there will be hundreds of conference registrants from all over the U.S. with Arkansas connections and hundreds of others attending for the rest of the excellent program.

What else is there that is definitely Arkansas in relation to the conference?

- A large part of the Conference Committee is made up of Arkansas residents, including the National Conference Chair, Jan Davenport. She is supported by a doggone good team of Arkansans.
- Everyone else on the conference committee has visited Arkansas at least once and some have made the journey several times.
- The banquet speaker is Arkansas' own Tom Dillard, Head of Special Collections Department,

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University of Arkansas Libraries. Please attend the banquet and let Tom know that he will have fellow Arkansans in the audience. You can sit there smugly because you know what a treat the other banquet attendees have in store from him.

- Arkansas fireworks will follow the banquet.
- Many of the conference speakers are Arkansans.
- Hear Ronnie A. Nichols, artist and historian deliver the [James Dent Walker lecture](#). Ronnie is former director of the Old Statehouse Museum and a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Little Rock's Central High.
- The wonderful folks at the conference that help people find a classroom, act as door monitors, check to see if the speaker needs anything, and handle many other duties are mostly Arkansans.
- Many of the speakers have connections to the fine research repositories in Arkansas.
- AGS is the sponsor of one of the special breakfasts on Friday morning.
- Thursday, September 3rd, is Arkansas Night at the Ballpark where both Arkansans and out-of-staters will enjoy a beautiful evening, baseball game, picnic supper, and door prizes for only \$15.00.
- Historic Arkansas is the site for the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 1st. It is free to all full conference registrants. This is a great place to help welcome the registrants from

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(FGS, continued from page 7)

other states.

- Have Arkansas ancestry of your own? What if you meet a conference registrant from another state that turns out to be your missing Grandaunt Minnie's granddaughter and came because the conference was in Arkansas? If you didn't register, you would miss that.

With all this, it's just a Natural State that you would want to be at the conference. After all, with almost 200 lectures, workshops, special events, meals, and a huge Exhibit Hall filled with many things genealogical to choose from, the education, fun, and networking can't be beat. Don't let it pass without being a part of this historic event in Arkansas. The first ever national level genealogical conference to be held in the state of Arkansas.

Your next step? Visit www.FGSConference.org to register.

After that? Visit www.FGSConferenceBlog.org to get the latest news, updates, and special information.

Don't forget to visit the AGS website <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/> for some special conference information that is only on that site!

Please share the news about the conference with other family historians, librarians, professional genealogists, archivists, and historians that may not see the AGS Ezine. The conference begins in just two months.

See you there.



Meet Our AGS Board Members: Richard Butler



Richard Butler

(photo by Pris Weathers)

[We asked Richard Butler, a very busy man, for a biographical sketch and he sent the following information he'd previously prepared for his 50th year reunion year book for Washington and Lee University.]

After being disqualified from Advanced ROTC and graduating from W&L, I attended the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville and graduated in 1962. The next year I entered the Army Reserves and was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, for six months of unpleasant basic training and served in the 431st Civil Affairs Company five and one-half more years.

Now retired after four careers: practicing lawyer, bank trust officer, director of a church-related telephone counseling center and personal assistant; I am busy being a historic preservationist. The seed was planted when my mother took me at the age of seven to Mount Vernon and I saw how the Ladies Association cared for General Washington's restored home. I have owned five restored historic houses in Little Rock, two and a half in Washington (Hempstead County, Arkansas) and one in Monroe County partly restored in the east Arkansas delta. My partner and I are remodeling a five-bedroom house built in a cave near Beckham Creek in Newton County. (If you want to see pictures, visit ozarkcave.com.) I am a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a charter member of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas and at present am chairman of the Historic Preservation State Review Board.

Both of my parents have died—and as far as I know I was an only child, so I rely

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on my 15 first cousins to act as my sibling family. My father went through two careers, lawyer and banker, before he could afford to become a farmer. When I was at W&L, he represented the Little Rock School Board in *Aaron v. Cooper* and presented the oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court. He ended his life in the Arkansas River in September 1999 when he became convinced he could not recover from a variety of illnesses. My mother, Gertrude Rimmel Butler, was an active community volunteer and died with a neuropathic condition in September 2007 at age 97.

I was chairman of the W&L Young Republican Club and am still a Republican. I think I have served on the Pulaski County Committee longer than any other member, as chairman 1984-86, and County Election Commissioner for two non-consecutive terms.

Too many boards have selected me as a member, including the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Arkansas Orchestra Society, the Little Rock Wind Symphony, the Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Firehouse Hostel and Museum, Mainstream (an independent living support organization for persons with disabilities--an Evan Kemp sort of place), the University History Institute and Jones Eye Institute at the University of Arkansas, the Family Service Agency and Big Brothers of Pulaski County, and Interstate Highway Sign Company. As you can tell, I enjoy attending concerts, recitals, plays, lectures and church services (where there is a pipe organ).

Also, I serve on the board of the Arkansas Genealogical Society which will sponsor the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in Little Rock this September. (Come visit Little Rock and chart your family tree.) And I enjoy volunteering at Heifer International and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies (history and genealogy) endowed by my father as part of the Central Arkansas Library System.

Was John Newton Sarber a Carpetbagger?

Desmond Walls Allen

[Mary Frances Hodges](#) has filled a hole in Arkansas history with her book about John Newton Sarber, a Radical Republican (a species commonly known as Carpetbagger), who moved to Arkansas after the War.

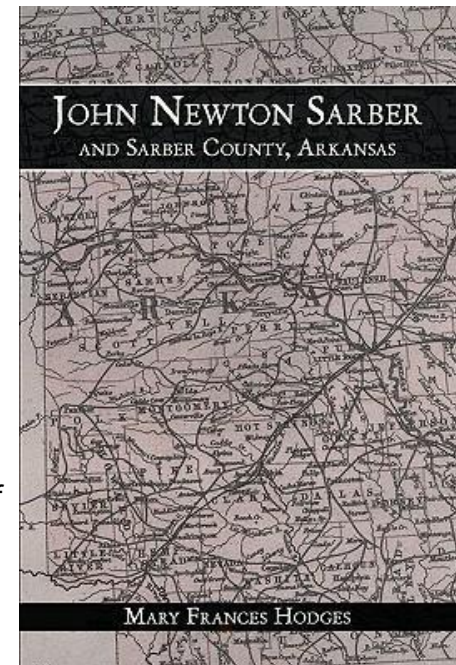


Mary Frances Hodges

Sarber served in the General Assembly as a senator from Johnson County in that time period when the Democrats were severely disenfranchised. A county created during Reconstruction was named for him in 1871. But when the Democrats regained the reigns of government, Sarber County was re-named Logan (the name of a well-known pioneer family in the region). Sarber then stuck his thumb in the political pie at the federal level and pulled out a U.S. marshal’s position. That didn’t last either—he resigned amid a minor tempest.

Mary Frances took on the difficult task of writing about an unpopular man. She achieved an unbiased look at him in *John Newton Sarber and Sarber County, Arkansas*. The book is available from [Amazon.com](#).

[Mary Frances Hodges](#) is a retired University of Arkansas at Little Rock professor. She’s available for speaking engagements and book signings. See her entry on [“Carpetbaggers and Scalawags,”](#) on the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History website.



North Arkansas Ancestor Fair was a Huge Success!

Desmond Walls Allen



The North Arkansas Ancestor Fair (this is the original ancestor fair) held at Marshall June 5th and 6th, was a huge success. Over 150 people gathered on Saturday to swap family stories and browse books for sale. We saw a lot of old friends and made some new ones.

Susan Boyle (above, left), our AGS President, tirelessly answered questions all day long from interested researchers and sold AGS books and CDs. Fair attendees each got a personal invitation from our society president to become AGS members.



Dorothy Borecky and Charlotte West stayed busy fielding questions about Van Buren County.





(above) Timothy G. Nutt,
Manuscripts and Rare Books
Librarian, University of Arkansas
Libraries, Fayetteville (and Perry
County expert)



We had Celebrities at the North Arkansas Ancestor Fair...

These are a few of the wonderful
folks who work ceaselessly in our
historical community.



(left) Euna Beavers, a leader in Conway
County's genealogy group

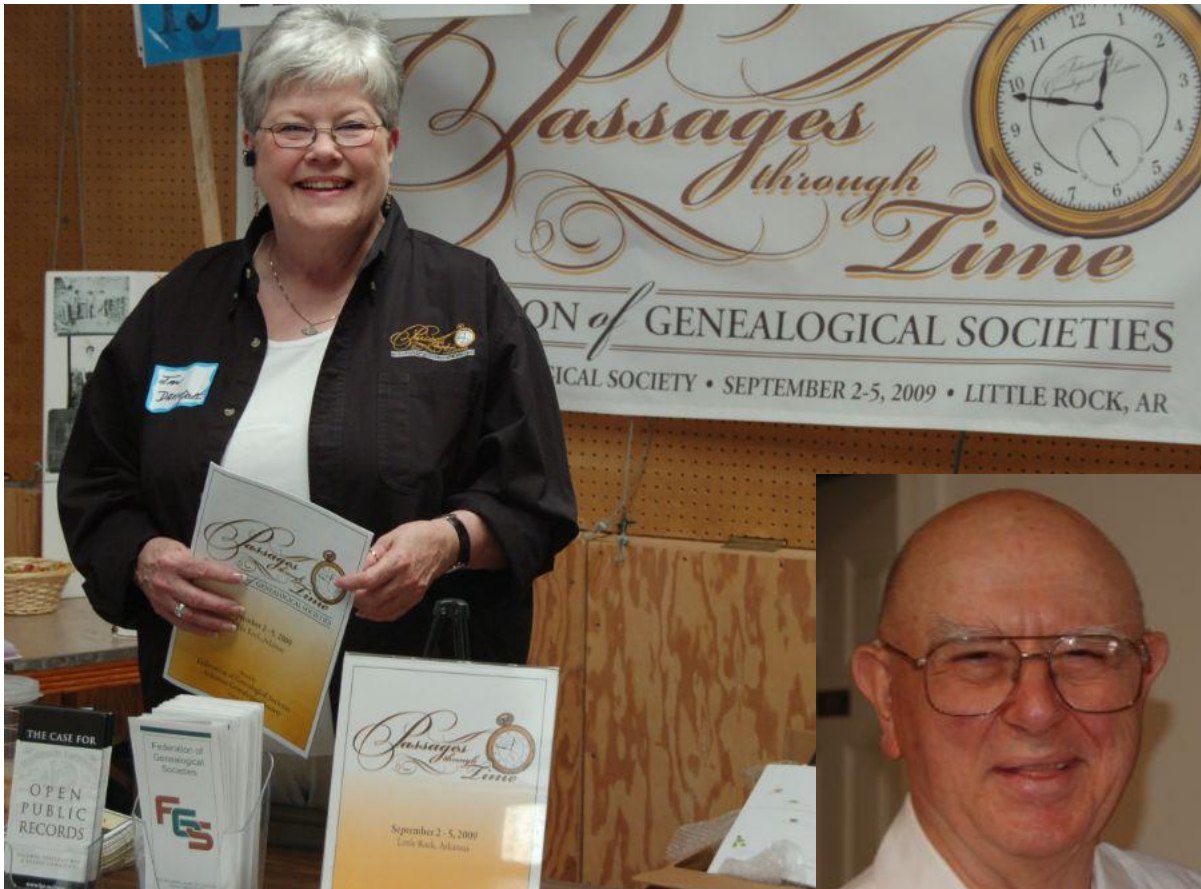


(right) Geraldine Littleton,
Searcy County Librarian



(right) Vicki Roberts, the moving force behind
Marion County's historical and genealogical group

And More Celebrities at the 2009 North Arkansas Ancestor Fair...



(below) James and Margaret Johnston have worked very hard for the past two decades to make the North Arkansas Ancestor Fairs a tremendous success.



Jan Davenport, AGS board member, (above) cheerfully made certain no one came away from the Ancestor Fair without a personal invitation from the national conference chairperson to the FGS/AGS Conference coming up in September in Little Rock.

Speaking of James J. Johnston

Desmond Walls Allen

That's James on the previous ezine page. He's like the Energizer Bunny when it comes to organizing historical events. This year's North Arkansas Ancestor Fair was barely underway and James already had another exciting event scheduled:

Cemetery Symposium

November 7, 2009

Petit Jean Electric Cooperative Building

Marshall, Arkansas

9:30 am to 4:45 pm

Cemetery Law, presented by George Butler

The Proud Pilgrim Experience, Ship Stewart-Abernathy

Discovering Graves, Jerry Hilliard

Grave Discovery Technology, Jamie Lockhart

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? And November should be the right time for fall color in the Ozarks. E-mail [James J. Johnston](mailto:James.J.Johnston) and let him know you want to reserve a seat. See you there!



It's Not Too Late to Sign Up: CALS 8th Annual Genealogy Workshop

Last month, we told you about the upcoming Genealogy Workshop on **Saturday, July 18th** in the Darragh Center at the main branch of the Central Arkansas Library System at 100 Rock in the River Market district. Well, it's not too late to sign up!

The speaker is Beau Sharbrough and he's informative and entertaining. Workshop attendees will learn about Footnote.com, a website of historical documents and social networking, and RootsWorks.com, where researchers can learn how to use the latest technical tools to easily maintain and navigate genealogy research. The group will also discuss the pros and cons of automatic research assistants such as GenSmarts.com, Ancestry.com, and Internet search engines.



Beau Sharbrough

The workshop is **free** and open to the public. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., and the workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. Reservations are strongly recommended. Contact the Arkansas Studies Institute at (501) 320-5700 or e-mail Rhonda Stewart at rstewart@cals.org.

Here's the lunch menu—sandwiches: Ham & Swiss, Roast beef & Swiss, Tuna Salad, or Turkey & Pepper Jack; wraps: Club, Chicken Club, Tuna Salad, Turkey, Weedeater (Veggie), or Chicken Fajita [Box lunches are \$6 and come with chips & a pickle or a fresh fruit salad]. OR, you can waddle over a couple of blocks to the Flying Fish and have a fried oyster po'boy, or frog legs, or catfish. If you go there, try to keep it to one beer, please, so you can finish the workshop. Note: the Flying Fish restaurant is where all those cheesy Billy Bass talking fish wound up—they're mounted on the walls with donors' names under them.

Parking may be a problem because the library's semi-annual used book sale is scheduled for the same weekend. So if the library lot is full, park under the freeway in the free lot, or pay and park in the River Market parking deck. Or call a friend who's going and ride with her from one of the area commuter lots and let the parking be her problem. (Yes, that's tacky.)

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! 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)

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 3: NGS Standards for Sharing Information: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/standards_for_sharing_information

Page 5: Send me an e-mail – DesmondWallsAllen@gmail.com

Page 7: James Dent Walker lecture—<http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/2008/11/james-dent-walker-2009-lecture-details.html>

Page 9: Ozark Cave—<http://www.ozarkcave.com/>

Page 11: Mary Frances Hodges' e-mail – Sundayschild59@aol.com

Amazon.com & Sarber book—http://www.amazon.com/John-Newton-Sarber-County-Arkansas/dp/1438958269/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1246296978&sr=8-1 (or just go to Amazon.com and put “John Newton Sarber” in the search box)

Carpetbaggers & Scalawags – <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1179>

p. 15: James J. Johnston's e-mail address – Johnston@ipa.net