



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

JOIN US!

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

[AGS Membership Application](#)

Welcome New Members

Mary DeRusse

Cabot, AR

Dr. Annette Greenland

Vilonia, AR

Peggy Wilkins

Alexander, AR

Attention Arkansas Genealogical Society Members: from Susan Boyle, AGS President

Annual Membership Meeting

Arkansas Genealogical Society's annual membership meeting will be held Friday morning September 4 at approximately 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. following the AGS Breakfast (7:30-8:30) during the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference at the State House Convention Center in Little Rock. Cost to attend the breakfast is \$20. If you wish to attend the breakfast, reserve your ticket at www.FGSConference.org.

The membership meeting is open to all Arkansas Genealogical Society members, regardless of whether they attend the conference or even the breakfast. If you attend the annual meeting but do not purchase a breakfast ticket you may come in after the lecture ends at approximately 8:30 a.m. or shortly before. There will be a five-minute break for non-members to leave. The business meeting will be very brief and will deal with voting on amendments to the bylaws and the election of board members for 2010. Nominations will be accepted from the floor before voting on the new board. All members who are able should attend to vote. If you are not attending the conference but attend the annual meeting, remember that afterwards you may visit the vendors' exhibit area which is open to the public. Please inform anyone among your friends and fellow members who may be confused about this.

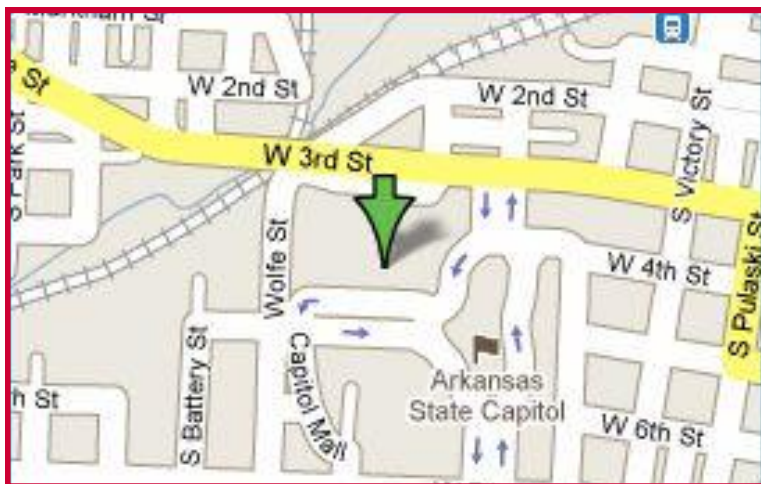
Take Time for the Arkansas History Commission

By Susan Boyle, AGS President

Those of you coming to Little Rock the first week in September for the FGS Conference, *Passages Through Time*, may want to schedule a visit to the Arkansas History Commission. Don't let the name throw you—it's the state archives. The research room is on the second floor of the 1 Capitol Mall building situated behind or just west of the State Capitol. It is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Wednesday, September 2, during conference week, the archives will be open until 8:00 p.m. Copies from paper or film are made with a copy card that costs \$1.00 and can be loaded with \$1-\$20.00. So leave your change at home.

To prepare for research before you come, visit the archives website at www.ark-ives.com. Click on the diamond [CARAT - Catalog of Arkansas Resources and Treasures] to find a list of collections and their descriptions plus a search box to search databases for family names. Then go down to OPAC [Online Public Access Catalog] and click on it to open up a search box to look for books, photographs and other materials in the online catalog.

Visit the Arkansas History Commission



A large collection of filmed county records allows you to look for marriages, probate records, deed records, court records, tax records, and other miscellaneous records from every courthouse in the state (some counties have two). However, most of the films are available on loan at local Family History Centers from the Family History Library, so concentrate on the films that are unique to the Arkansas History Commission and can't be accessed elsewhere to

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make best use of your time.

The History Commission is known for its large collection of Arkansas newspapers on microfilm, including the *Arkansas Gazette* beginning in 1819 and many local and county newspapers. Names and events in some newspapers have been indexed and can be accessed online at the Biodex item in the first search box on the CARAT page, or in the research room's biographical index.



When you visit the Arkansas History Commission, look for the smiling face of our AGS President, Susan Boyle!

Another significant collection consists of church records, church association records, and religious newspapers on microfilm. Guides to church and association records are arranged by county and denomination. Many death notices in the *Arkansas Baptist* and *Arkansas Methodist* newspapers have been indexed in the biographical index.

A large collection of military records and indexes on microfilm and in print spans the nation's wars. The archive holds one of the best Civil War collections in the south. On microfilm are Arkansas Union and Confederate service records, Arkansas Confederate Pension Applications, Arkansas Confederate Home records, and 1911 Confederate reunion questionnaires. A large quantity of National Archives microfilmed indexes and records includes Index to Compiled Confederate Service Records, Unfiled Slips and Papers, Index to Revolutionary War Service, Index to War of 1812 Service, and others. Arkansas World War I Draft Registration Records and military discharge records for Arkansas are also available.

The State Land Office Records is another collection on film. There is a partial index on film and online, or if you know the land description you can search the film by township,

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range, and section for the notes on your ancestor's land entries or patent date.

The Arkansas History Commission boasts a large photograph collection with its own index. Over 12,000 images are available online in the Digital Photographs menu selection in CARAT, and as part of *Documenting Arkansas* which also can be accessed under CARAT at www.arkives.com.

Manuscript collections include personal papers, commercial papers, and state papers. The Barbers Collection for instance includes biographical information, dates of licenses, and photographs. Guides to 130+ manuscript collections have recently been put online. Access them through the Manuscript Collections menu item in CARAT. A small-manuscript collection of letters, diaries and miscellaneous papers is indexed online and available for viewing on microfilm. A map collection is indexed as well. These items must be requested at the desk and perused in a separate room.

The collection of published materials is extensive and includes Arkansas and southern genealogy and history, indexes, abstracts, cemetery indexes, serials, and military history which make it possible to research families across the south. Most books and serials are available on the open shelves in the research room. The catalog provides book call numbers and locations. Public use computers with Ancestry access, film and fiche reader/copiers, and paper copiers are available in the research room.

We hope to see you there during conference week when you put your research caps on.



FGS/AGS Conference News: Only a month left until the genealogists descend on Little Rock!

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



In just a month, genealogists from all over the United States and some from Canada will be getting together in Little Rock for four full days of learning more about genealogy, finding cousins, seeing how much is online, seeing how much is not online, figuring out how to get the most out of records, determining what archives or libraries have the answers, and spending some money in the large Exhibit Hall. Don't let this event pass you by. The Arkansas Genealogical Society is the host for this event which is the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. You will be hearing about this event for years to come and will feel sad if you weren't a part of it.

To Register: It is simple to register online. Just go to www.fgsconference.org and click on Registration. If you prefer to mail in your registration, you may print out a registration form and send it to FGS along with a check for your registration and other activities.



Mealtime? There are multiple luncheons each day and this is the way to make sure you have a place to eat, enjoy the company of other genealogists and listen to an entertaining speaker at all except one luncheon. You won't have to stand in line at a restaurant with the non-genealogists who work in the area. (They are surely fine people, but they won't understand if you begin talking about walking through cemeteries or about the lecture you just attended!)

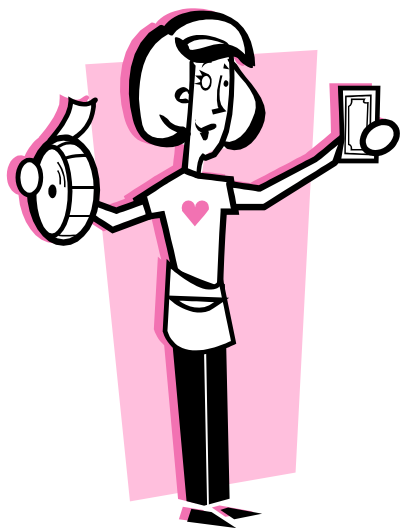
Friday evening is the annual banquet and as we told you in an earlier *AGS Ezine*, Arkansas' own

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Tom Dillard is the speaker. He is a special highlight of the evening and a great speaker. On Friday morning, there are three special breakfasts with a speaker. We think it's a great way to start the day with breakfast surrounded by lots of genealogy.

If you already registered for the Conference, you may still add luncheons, the banquet, and the Arkansas Night at the Ballpark via the Conference website www.fgsconference.org using the PIN number you received when you registered for the conference. Please feel free to purchase a banquet, luncheon, breakfast or ballpark ticket for a guest. That guest does not have to be registered for the conference.



Door prizes: Many of the vendors in the Exhibit Hall will be giving away conference door prizes. Each registrant will receive 20 door prize tickets with your conference name tag and syllabus CD at the registration booth. The ticket will ask for your name, mailing and e-mail addresses and phone number. Bring along some of those address labels you have sitting around or print some up before you leave home to save some writing. Each participating vendor will have a black box labeled for door prizes. Each attendee chooses which door prize box to drop their tickets in depending on the door prize being given. Some will have more than one door prize drawing during the three Exhibit Hall days. The names of the winners will be posted on a bulletin board in the Exhibit Hall. If you are a winner, all you need to do to claim your prize is to revisit the specific vendor's booth.

Win a free 2010 FGS Conference Registration for your society

If your genealogical society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the upcoming FGS/AGS Conference has a special benefit. Delegates from those member societies that attend the conference are eligible to win a free registration for your genealogical society to

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next year's FGS conference by entering a drawing once you are at the conference.

On each Conference day, one lucky Member Society of FGS will have their society's name drawn and the society's delegate at the conference becomes the Delegate of the Day. On Friday night at the FGS banquet, the Saturday Delegate of the Day will be drawn. The names of these four societies/delegates are then drawn from in order to name the Delegate of the Conference. You must be a registered conference attendee and the designated Delegate from your FGS member society to enter the contest. You do not have to attend the banquet, but if you do, that drawing and your presence provides a bit of publicity for your organization. It is more exciting to learn that you are the Delegate of the Conference if you are at the banquet rather than waiting till the next day!



The winner of the 2008 Delegate of the Conference was Christine (Chris) M. Green of Half Moon Bay, California. The Member Society is the San Mateo County Genealogy Society (SMCGS). Chris won a free registration for her society, the San Mateo County Genealogical Society, to the 2009 FGS Conference. Chris has been designated as the person to use the free registration at the 2009 Conference in Little Rock.

What is a Delegate?

What are the benefits of your society belonging to FGS? Attend Delegate 101 for the answers. This session takes place from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2d in the Statehouse Convention Center. During Delegate 101, learn more about the roles and benefits of the member society, Delegate, and FGS during a panel discussion. The panel will include several

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FGS Board Members and Officers. Come prepared with your questions, answers, tips, ideas and solutions. You will receive extensive information to take home to your genealogical society. Conference registrants who are not Member Society Delegates are welcome to attend the Delegate 101 session and also the Delegate Luncheon that day. The luncheon does require an extra fee and pre-registration.

A genealogical or family society that is not a member of FGS? Yes, there are some. Your society can join. By banding together and learning from each other we make organizations stronger. It is also a stronger voice in crucial legislative matters. If a non-member society decides to become an official part of FGS while in Little Rock, there will be some special free items awarded. No, we won't tell you about them here. Stop by the FGS booth in the Exhibit Hall to learn about these free items and about membership! For membership details and the cost, visit the FGS website: <http://fgs.org/membership/index.php>



Conference sessions to be recorded: Many of the conference sessions will be audio recorded and available for purchase on CD. Listings of those sessions being recorded will be available at the conference. Jamb-Inc. will be doing the recording and will have a booth where you can make your on-site purchases. The CDs will also be available after the conference from Jamb-Inc. but mailing fees will be charged.

Last minute Conference Information: Be sure to read the Conference News Blog during August and even during Conference Week to learn last minute details, reminders, suggested items to bring, types of clothing to wear, and detail on special items: www.fgsconferenceblog.org.

Meet Our AGS Board Members: Nina L. Corbin



Nina L. Corbin

We've been featuring biographical sketches of our AGS Board Members in previous issues. These folks give of their time and talents to make AGS the great organization that it is!

This month's feature is about Nina L. Corbin—here's her bio information:

"I am a retired teacher, having taught 28 years. I received my BSE in 1969 in Elementary and Special Education and my MSE in Early Childhood Education in 1972. Rel and I have been married 29 years. We have no children. However, we are owned by two cats, both strays, Barney Belisle, after Rel's great-great-great-great grandfather, and Harley Davidson because his purr is so loud. We became addicted to genealogy 18 years ago. For 15 of those years, I have been a volunteer at the Otter Creek Family History Center in Little Rock. I am currently the historian for AGS." — Nina L. Corbin



The Mena Library is Recovering from the April 12th Tornado

The April 12, 2009, tornado that hit Mena, Arkansas, did a tremendous amount of damage to the library. Windows were blown out, the back wall moved, and the roof was blown off. Several people were trapped in the library when the storm hit and one woman was injured by flying glass.

Shirley Manning, a Mena native, gave us a recent update on the library's condition, "Yesterday, July 18th, I stopped by the library to see how things are going. They have the new, temporary wall up, while the back wall is being rebuilt. The lighting, ceiling, and floor all have to be redone. They have packed all the books up, and they're stored so we can't get to anything, and it will be several more months before we can. Our storage room is all we can access, so we can reach the *Mena Star* newspaper microfilm, but that's about it."



Interior of the library after the tornado hit

Shirley has compiled a photo book of Mena's tornado damage. It has 56 pages, all in color, with 100 photos. The price is \$15 plus \$2 postage. Order from Shirley Manning, PO Box 226, Norman, AR 72960, or contact Shirley at mtsig@hughes.net. The bulk of the proceeds from Shirley's book will go to help rebuild the library. To see some of Shirley's photos of the tornado's aftermath, go to http://www.menahistory.com/mena_tornado/

In addition, Richard Lawry has posted photos of the event on his blog site: <http://anarkiesmusings.blogspot.com/2009/04/more-tornado-photos.html>

U.S. Marshals Museum to Host Genealogy Workshop

By Jessica Hayes

The U.S. Marshals Museum is hosting a weekend of events to commemorate the 220th anniversary of the U.S. Marshals Service. Established on September 24, 1789, the U.S. Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency.

Genealogy 101: Tracing Your Roots

Featuring **Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG**

When: Saturday, September 12, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Where: Central Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 2901 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, Arkansas

Sessions Include:

- How to Begin a Genealogy Project-Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG
- How to Conduct Effective Oral History Interviews-Juliana Nykolaiszyn, Oklahoma Research Program, OSU Library
- How to Utilize the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-Barbara Rust, Senior Archivist, NARA-Fort Worth
- How to Do Genealogy Research on the Internet-Diana Curry, Genealogy Specialist, Fort Smith Public Library

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- How to Research U.S. Marshals-David Turk, Historian, U.S. Marshals Service and Bob Ernst, Researcher

Workshop participants will receive an invitation to join us the evening before (Friday, September 11) for a reception/book signing and to learn more about the future U.S. Marshals Museum, see renderings of the building exhibitions and design, and hear the great stories that will be featured in the museum. This is also a wonderful opportunity to visit with the presenters, including Christine Rose.

The genealogy workshop is \$35/person, which includes lunch and workshop materials. If you are traveling from out of town, the Marriott Courtyard, in downtown Fort Smith, is offering a room rate of \$89/night—just tell them you are with the U.S. Marshals Museum when you call.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Jessica Hayes at jhayes@usmarshalsmuseum.com or 479/242-2634.

Read more about the U.S. Marshals Museum at <http://www.usmarshals.gov/history/museum.htm>.



Judge Isaac Parker

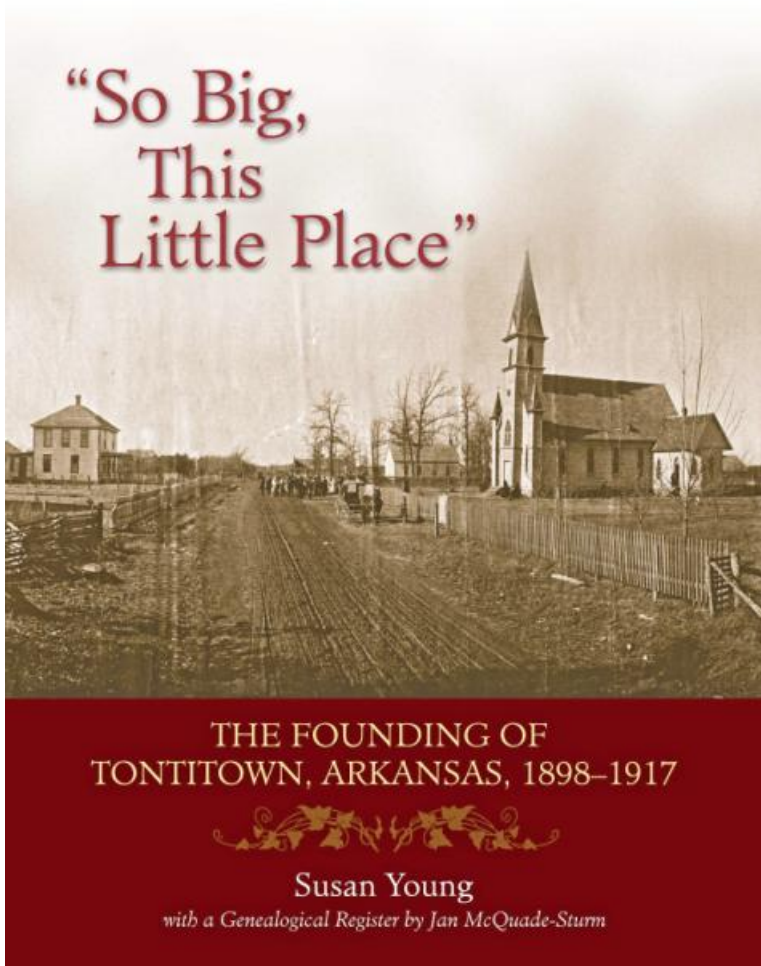
Tontitown History Book Published

By Susan Young, Outreach Coordinator, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

The founding and early years of Tontitown, Arkansas, an Italian settlement in the Arkansas Ozarks, is the focus of *So Big, This Little Place: The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917*, a new book published by the Tontitown Historical Museum. Written by Susan Young, outreach coordinator at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, the book features over 100 historic images from the Tontitown Museum archives and includes a genealogical register of Tontitown's early Italian families by independent researcher Jan McQuade-Sturm of Golden, Colorado.

"Tontitown is a unique story in Arkansas, and national, history," said Young. "Founded in 1898 by Father Pietro Bandini, an Italian Catholic priest, and some 40 Italian families who had been working on a plantation in south Arkansas, Tontitown began garnering local, state, and national attention within a few years of its establishment. The town's idyllic rural setting was in direct contrast to the crowded tenements of East Coast cities where so many Italians settled upon their arrival in America. Father Bandini envisioned Tontitown as a 'model of successful Italian immigration,' a model that could be duplicated in other parts of the country. The hard-working Italian families who settled in Tontitown made Bandini's dream a reality," Young explained.

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Susan Young, author of *So Big, This Little Place: The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917*

From Google Maps, here's where Tontitown is located (A)

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The book will be available for sale at the 111th Tontitown Grape Festival, August 6 - 8. Young will sign copies of the book from 4:00-10:00 p.m. each day. Cost including tax is \$30. All proceeds from the book sales will go to support the Tontitown Historical Museum. For more information, contact Mary Maestri Vaughan at 479/751-6536.

Visit [Shiloh Museum of Ozark History](#), 118 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764, 479/750-8165.



Arkansas Book and Paper Show to be held at Jacksonville

Desmond Walls Allen



Genealogists and books go together, don't they? If you haven't been to Arkansas' Antiquarian book shows, this is the year for you to start.

Who: 24th Annual Arkansas Book and Paper Show

When: Saturday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Jacksonville Community Center, Hwy 67/167 and Main Street
105 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville, Arkansas
(go to Google maps for exact details)

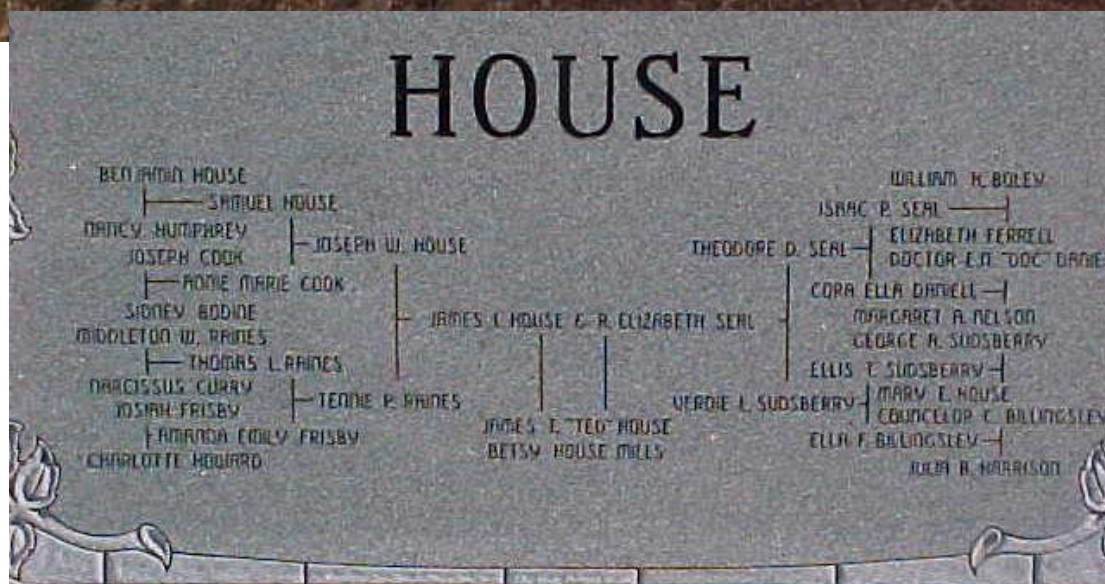
For more information: Ed & Jen Myrick, 277 Pickwicket Dr., Conway, AR, 72034
501/336-9313, arkansasbooks101@yahoo.com

Admission: \$5.00 at the door; parking is free

Used and rare book dealers from CT, MD, VA, OH, TN, MO, LA, TX, GA, & AR came to last year's show with books on every imaginable topic, as well as maps, postcards, and other ephemera. The postcard dealers are a special favorite with genealogists (well, after the maps, of course). They have tables and tables filled with trays and albums of postcards arranged by subject and place. Allow plenty of time for your visit because you can get lost in those postcards.

How to Tell Where a TRUE Genealogist is Buried

Desmond Walls Allen



Sometimes you see a headstone and you know from the rich detail that the person who put that stone up was a seriously hard-core genealogist. Well, [Betsy Mills](#), [ARGenWeb](#) State Coordinator for the [USGenWeb Project](#) (also the County Coordinator for the Nevada County ARGenWeb), put up a stone for her parents that must be at the top of the list as a true genealogist's project. Her mother was active in several lineage societies and left instructions for Betsy to include those emblems and a pedigree chart as well. Here are photos of the front and back of the stone. It's in New DeAnn Cemetery at Prescott, Arkansas.

People, this is how WE want our stones to look!

Back of the headstone

The Genealogy Guys Podcast LIVE to be held at the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference



George Moore



Drew Smith

The Genealogy GuysSM Podcast, a service of Aha! Seminars, Inc., announces its participation at the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Little Rock, AR, September 2-5, 2009.

The Genealogy Guys Podcast is the longest running weekly genealogy podcast in the world, with thousands of regular listeners around the globe. Co-hosts George G. Morgan and Drew Smith share news, interviews, book reviews, listener email, and more in their one-hour recording, available for free at <http://genealogyguys.com> and iTunes, and through RSS subscription.

The Guys will host a one-hour LIVE recording session on Thursday, September 3rd at 3:30 PM. Conference attendees can be in the audience and submit questions for possible inclusion in the live episode. The Genealogy Guys Podcast recording venue will be announced in the onsite conference guide that every registrant receives. Space will be limited, so make your plans to arrive early!

George G. Morgan is president of Aha! Seminars, Inc. He is a popular lecturer, and is also the prolific author of 8 books and literally hundreds of articles in print and online magazines and on websites. His latest book is the second edition of *How to Do Everything: Genealogy*, published by McGraw-Hill in 2009. George is on the boards of the Florida State Genealogical Society and

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the Florida Genealogical Society (Tampa), and works on the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Planning Committee.



George Moore and Drew Smith
The Genealogy Guys

Drew Smith, MLS, is a reference librarian at the University of South Florida Tampa Library. He is a popular national genealogical speaker, and writes for print and online magazines. Genealogical Publishing Company published his landmark book, *Social Networking for Genealogists*, in 2009. He is president of the Florida Genealogical Society (Tampa), a director on the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and parliamentarian for the Florida State Genealogical Society.

Aha! Seminars, Inc., (<http://ahaseminars.com>) is a Tampa-based company specializing in delivering continuing education classes for libraries and library consortia across the U.S. and genealogy seminars for genealogical societies in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and on genealogical cruises.

For more information about the conference, visit the website at <http://fgs.org> and the conference blog at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org>.

For more information, contact George G. Morgan
aha@ahaseminars.com, 813/205-3032.

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

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

To remove yourself from the AGS ezine list, [click here](#).

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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 13: Shiloh Museum www.springdalear.gov/shiloh

Page 16: USGenWeb <http://usgenweb.org/>

Arkansas GenWeb <http://www.argenweb.net/arresearch.html>