



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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## AGS Ezine

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Susan G. Boyle, editor  
George Mitchell, list manager

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### JOIN US!

If you are not a member,  
this is your official  
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member,  
look at the back of your  
*Arkansas Family Historian*.  
Your membership expires  
on the date printed under  
your name.

It may be time to renew  
your AGS membership dues!

In another month the dark days of winter will be waning. February and March calendars are full already with many events that might brighten the lives of family historians. Make your choices and plan ahead. Some of these events would be difficult to drop in on at the last minute. Among the options are Black History, Civil War discussions, living history, Cherokee research, and Irish research.

Family historians are happily anticipating the release of the 1940 census by the National Archives in April. Who do you need to look for? Will you find yourself? Your parent for the first time? I hope to find my parents together for the first time as a married couple in a census and will see my maternal grandfather and a paternal great-grandmother for the last time in a census. But we will have difficulty finding anyone until the 1940 census is indexed, and the indexing is being left up to the genealogical community. Plan on helping. If you have not been indexing on FamilySearch Indexing, now would be a good time to start. See more on page 8.

Don't get your fill of genealogy workshops in March, because the Arkansas Genealogical Society will be providing a *Free* workshop on April 21 at the Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock, and we hope you will join us.

You will find a brief history of the Perry County Genealogical and Historical Society in this issue. Let us know about your local society. We would like to tell others about your group. Genealogy is in all ways a cooperative effort and depends on sharing information. Participating on a variety of levels and in many different ways improves the genealogical environment for everyone.

## Coming Events

February 3, 2012

*Who do you think you are?* begins a new season on NBC at 7:00 p.m. in Arkansas.

February 9, 2012

**Central Arkansas Genealogical and Historical Society**, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas, 6 p.m., community room. Research Night; bring a completed family group sheet. If you are new to genealogy, sheets will be available for you. Visitors are always welcome. If you are a speaker and would like to schedule a meeting night please leave a message at the Butler Center.

February 13, 2012

**Saline County Library**, Benton, Arkansas, *The Quilted History: A Tapestry of the African American Experience*, a lecture and exhibit by Carolyn Ann Smith Williams; call (501) 778-4766 or email [spendue@saline.lib.ar.us](mailto:spendue@saline.lib.ar.us) for more information.

February 18, 2012

“**Profiles in Arkansas Black History: Markers and Makers,**” a seminar sponsored by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission, will be held at the Arkansas State Capitol, Room 151. To register call 501.682.6900.

February 19, 2012

**Fayetteville Public Library**, Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War—*The Shape of War*, 2 pm-3:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 479.856.7250. (continued on page 3)

## Coming Events (continued from page 2)

February 27, 2012

**Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club**, William Laman Library, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 7 p.m. Alvin Harrington will speak about the Arkansas Gravestone Project. Visitors are always welcome. If you are a speaker and have a program you would like to present we would welcome you to schedule a meeting night.

March 2-4, 2012

**Arkansas Living History Association Annual Conference**, various locations in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas. Civil War theme. For schedule and registration form go to [www.arkansaslivinghistory.com/downloads](http://www.arkansaslivinghistory.com/downloads) or for online membership and registration information, visit [www.shilohmuseum.org/education/alha](http://www.shilohmuseum.org/education/alha) or contact Pody Gay at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History: [pgay@springdalear.gov](mailto:pgay@springdalear.gov) or 479.750.8165.

March 8, 2012

**Central Arkansas Genealogical and Historical Society**, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas, 6 p.m., community room, program on Online Databases, Free and Fee Based

March 10, 2012

**Saline County Library**, Genealogy for You Seminar, 9:00-3:30. Gene Norris, CG, of the Cherokee Heritage Center, will speak on Cherokee genealogy and the Dawes Rolls. Call 501.778.4766 to register.

March 17, 2012

**Ulster Historical Foundation**, US lecture tour March 2012, Bentonville, Arkansas (continued on page 4)

## Coming Events (continued from page 3)

March 24, 2012

**Central Arkansas Historical and Genealogical Society**, Spring Workshop, Darragh Center, Central Arkansas Library, 9:00-3:30, speaker Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL; \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members.

Email [jhdavenport39@gmail.com](mailto:jhdavenport39@gmail.com) for more information or go to <http://www.caghs.net>

March 26, 2012

**Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club**, Laman Library, North Little Rock, 7 p.m. Lauren Jarvis will speak about the Spanish Influenza Epidemic in Arkansas

April 21, 2012

**Arkansas Genealogical Society Free Workshop**, *Caught In The Middle.....Bridging the Gap Between Fundamentals and Technology*, Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, lunch on your own; vendors; *NEW Arkansas Prior Birth Index Vol. X CD* and *50 Years of the Arkansas Family Historian CD* will be available.

April 21, 2012

**Village Genealogical Society and Arkansa Chapter, DAR**, genealogy workshop, Coronado Center, Hot Springs Village, 8:30–3:30 featuring Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, \$25. See <http://www.hsvgs.org>

May 9-12, 2012

**National Genealogical Society 2012 Family History Conference**, Cincinnati, Ohio, Duke Energy Convention Center. For information and to register online, go to [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info)

# Focus on Perry County Historical and Genealogical Society

By Lynda Suffridge

The Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society was formed in December 1997 with only two people in attendance at the Max Milam Library in Perryville, Arkansas. Betty Burke was elected the first president and Jackie Paul Myers, the first secretary and treasurer. Meeting times were set for 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month and with permission of the librarian, Jan Guffey, the organization would meet at the library.

Six people showed up for the second meeting in January 1998: Betty Burke, Jackie Myers, Elise Hill, Leroy Williams, John Pennington, and Pearl Bowen Pennington. Pearl was elected vice-president.

The goals of the society were (1) to create and foster interest in genealogy; (2) to gather and preserve genealogical and historical data through library and educational means, including lectures, discussions, and workshops; and (3) to provide the public with genealogical source materials.

Bylaws were adopted the first year, and membership expanded. Officers were for three-year terms. Two successful ancestral fairs were held and Lynda Suffridge gave a "Beginning Genealogy" workshop. Three books were published including *Pedigrees, Perry County, Arkansas* compiled by Joyce Hill; *Collection of Obituaries (1890-1999) of Perry County, Arkansas* compiled by Jackie Paul Myers; and *Census of Cemeteries, Perry County, Arkansas* compiled by Palmer Myers.

Lynda Suffridge offered to edit a publication for the society and so began *The Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter* in the spring of 1999. Three issues were published the first two years and then it became a quarterly publication.

President Betty Burke appointed a committee of Buford and Lynda Suffridge and Jackie and Palmer Myers to begin the process of gathering material for a history book of Perry County people. Also in 1999, Mrs. Elise Hill died and left her large collection of family research books to the Max Milam Library.

(continued on page 5)

## **Perry County Historical and Genealogical Society** (continued from page 4)

Another early endeavor of the members of the society was to take oral history interviews of the older people of Perry County. These interviews were written up and most appear in the history book, *Perry County, Arkansas: Its Land & People*. Many people submitted their family histories and photographs for the book. The editing committee included Mary Laurie (layout editor), James Palmer Myers, Jackie Paul Myers, Jeanette Paul McClenning, Buford Joseph Suffridge, Jr., and Lynda Childers Suffridge.

The Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Max Milam Library in Perryville with two exceptions being the meetings in June and December which are a summer picnic and a Christmas party. Membership is \$15 and includes four issues of the newsletter a year.

Publications the society offers include:

*Perry County, Arkansas: Its Land & People* [\$80 + \$10 shipping, 596 pages, fully indexed, includes photographs, community, church, business, school, and family histories]

*Perry County, Arkansas Marriages 1881-1947* [\$35 + \$6 shipping].

*Perry County, Arkansas Marriages 1947-2000* [\$30 + \$6 shipping].

If both marriage books are ordered together the cost is only \$60 + 6 shipping.

*Perry County, Arkansas Census of Cemeteries* [\$40 includes shipping]

*Perry County, Arkansas Collection of Obituaries* [\$25 includes shipping]

PCH&GS Newsletters are also available. Back issues are \$3 each. A complete set from Volume 1 - Volume 13 [\$95 includes shipping]. Order from PCH&GS, PO Box 156, Perryville, AR 72126

For more information contact Lynda Suffridge at [Lcsuffridge@gmail.com](mailto:Lcsuffridge@gmail.com)

## Writing Women's History

The Arkansas Women's History Institute announces its call for the 2012 Susie Pryor Award submissions. The award is named in honor of Susie Hampton Newton Pryor - mother, community leader, local historian and writer from Camden, Arkansas.

*The Susie Pryor Award in Arkansas Women's History offers a \$1,000 prize annually for the best unpublished essay on topics in Arkansas women's history.*

Manuscripts are judged on their contributions to knowledge of women in Arkansas's history, use of primary and secondary materials, and analytical and stylistic excellence. The winning paper may be published.

***Deadline for submission is Friday, March 2, 2012.***

The winner will be announced at the Awards Banquet of the 2012 Arkansas Historical Association in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on Friday, April 13, 2012.

For guidelines, or for more information about the Susie Pryor Award, please contact:

Heather Register Zbinden, Chair

Susie Pryor Competition

1318 Pine Valley Road

Little Rock, AR 72207

501-324-8647

[heather@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:heather@arkansasheritage.org)

## About the 1940 census: news from FamilySearch.org

On April 2, 2012, the National Archives will provide images of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census online, and FamilySearch.org and its partners plus Ancestry.com and others will start publishing the census for free the same day. The images will always be free to access on the National Archives site and at FamilySearch.org and for one year on Ancestry.com. There will be no microfilm.

A joint initiative between Archives.com, FamilySearch, findmypast.com, and other leading genealogy organizations will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to these digital images and **immediately start indexing** these records to make them searchable online for free and open access.

In other words, finding who you want to find in the 1940 census may be delayed until that person's particular census page is indexed. The images will be freely available to browse, but there will be no indexes to the images until we create them. That's right – WE, as in US, as in YOU and ME. The really good news is that FamilySearch.org (and others) will provide digital images to tens of thousands of volunteers to start transcribing the records so they become searchable. Complete publication of the index will depend on how many volunteers like you can help.

They are asking for your help in indexing. There are already many volunteers indexing for FamilySearch, but this mammoth 1940 census project will require many more. Many hands make light work and the more of us who volunteer, the sooner the 1940 census will be fully searchable. You could become an indexer right now by signing up at [FamilySearch Indexing](#). Speaking from experience, I can tell you that the indexing is easy and comes in small batches which you can index online or download to your computer. You may index at any time of the day or night you choose. If you volunteer and start learning the ropes now, you will be in a good position to contribute to the 1940 census indexing. To learn more and to sign up to index, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/1940census>

## Concerning access to records

The nature of their research demands that family historians support preservation of records, access to records, and open records, because without access to the records they are stonewalled before they begin. Every so often genealogists are asked to sign a petition or write letters to protest the closing of records important to family historians. Lately, there have been conflicting decisions from two separate entities relative to openness of records—one a state and the other a federal agency.

In September 2011 it was announced that the state of Maine had changed its laws to make vital records more accessible! The new law changed the one hundred year closure set by law in 2010 to seventy-five years for birth records [it's one hundred years in Arkansas], fifty years for marriage records and fetal death records, and twenty-five years for death records [it's fifty years in Arkansas]. Family members and genealogists with a state issued researcher ID card will be able to access these closed records.

On the other hand, the Social Security Administration recently and without notice extended its Freedom of Information Act restriction to one-hundred years, which means you can't order an SS-5 (the application packet) for a person born after 1912 without having parents' names blacked out — the very information for which most people order the SS-5. If you can prove the parents are deceased, you may receive the full information. But if you don't know the parents' names you don't know when they died....

These are just two examples of why family historians must continue to encourage and promote open records and be ever at the ready to oppose the further closing of records broadly and definitively to family historians.

## Meet Our AGS Board Members: Steve Perdue

Steve Perdue is a native of Saline County, Arkansas, having grown up in the company town of Bauxite. His mother's family, the Hogues, settled in Saline County in 1839. He graduated from Bauxite High School, received his bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University in History and Education, and holds a Master's Degree from the University of Arkansas. He served on the Arkansas History Task Force for the Arkansas Department of Education in 1986 and was named one of the top ten educators in Pulaski County in 1991 by the Pulaski Heights Lions Club. He taught Arkansas and American history for twenty-eight years in the North Little Rock School District retiring in 1998. He worked at the Arkansas History Commission after his retirement and in September of 1999 became part-time Curator of the David O. Demuth Arkansas Room of the Saline County Library. In June 2001 he became full time and in 2007 was named head of the newly created Genealogy and Local History Department of the Saline County Library.

He has published *History of the Hiram Hogue Family, Saline and Grant County Arkansas Pioneers* and has written articles for *The Saline*, the publication of the Saline County History and Heritage Society.

He is a life member of and served on the board of trustees of the Arkansas Historical Association and is a member of the Garland County and Grant County Historical Societies. He has served as President of the Bauxite Historical Association and Museum and helped to organize and is a member of the Bryant Historical Society and the Haskell Historical Society. He serves as Vice-President and board member of the Saline County History and Heritage Society and has served on the board of the Arkansas Genealogical Society previously. He serves on the board of directors of the Saline County Art League. He is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, and the Saline County Razorback Club. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Benton where he is a member of the worship choir and serves on the history and library committees of the church. He recently helped to organize the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Baptist Church in Benton. He enjoys Razorback football and collecting Arkansas political memorabilia and Saline County Post Cards.



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## **Administrative Stuff**

**Contributions:** If you have news for the Ezine, send it! [susanb1996@aol.com](mailto:susanb1996@aol.com) –Thanks!

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