



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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## AGS Ezine

Volume 7, No. 6, June 2012

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!

The U.S. celebrated Memorial Day last weekend. You may have gone to a cemetery or ceremony to honor our veterans. Perhaps you viewed or marched in a parade, enjoyed a fireworks display, or gathered for a family reunion. It occurs to me that for many genealogists, every day is memorial day, in that it is the rare day that we don't think about one ancestor or another.

What is it that keeps them so much in our minds? Why do we care so much to know why they lived in one place or why they moved to another? How did they meet their spouse, why did they name their children as they did? How or why did they choose their occupation? Why are we obsessed so to know when they died and where they are buried? Surely it is partly because we sense that they are part of us, our origins, where we come from, why we are who we are.

But isn't part of our determination to uncover and reveal our ancestors a result of our desire to memorialize them, to prevent them and their lives from being forgotten as if never lived? Genealogy is more than collecting names, dates, and place names. In truth, it is an endless exercise in discovering and documenting how our ancestors lived, loved, and interacted with their family and community, how they supported their country, the things they created, the sacrifices they made, the difficulties they faced, and the tragedies they endured.

We memorialize our ancestors by gathering, organizing, maintaining and sharing the records, documents, photographs, and artifacts that illustrate how, when, and where their lives were lived.

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## Coming Events

June 1, 2012

**North Arkansas Ancestor Fair**, Ozark Heritage Arts Center in Leslie, Arkansas, from 9:30 to 3:30. Morning session on Missouri archives and afternoon session on military records and events. More information at:

[www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

June 2, 2012

**North Arkansas Ancestor Fair Genealogical Swap Meet** at the grade school cafeteria, Marshall, Arkansas, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More information at: [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

June 6, 2012

**Black History Commission of Arkansas**, Reception and Program, at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center; the event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by June 4 to Jane Wilkerson at [jane.wilkerson@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.wilkerson@arkansas.gov).

June 13, 2012

**Free Professional Development Workshop** “African Americans and the Civil War in Arkansas,” 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Lakeport Plantation, Lake Village, Arkansas, hosted by the Arkansas Heritage Sites at Arkansas State University; the bulk of the workshop will take place at the Cowpen Restaurant two miles up the road, <http://thecowpen.com/> ; speakers Mark Christ, *African American Regiments in Arkansas*; Rhonda Stewart, *The Legacy of Richard Toombs, U.S. Colored Troops*; and Blake Wintory, *Reconstruction and Redemption in Arkansas and Chicot County*. To register email [Rachel.Miller@smail.astate.edu](mailto:Rachel.Miller@smail.astate.edu)

## Coming Events

June 14-16, 2012

**Palatines to America Annual Conference**, Indianapolis, Indiana, Marriott East Hotel; *German Research Meets Methodology and Technology*. Two experts, Warren Bittner and John Neill will share their knowledge. For full information visit the German Genealogy Society, Palatines to America website at <http://www.palam.org>

June 18, 2012,

**Benton Library**, 6:30-7:30 p.m., *The Civil War in Arkansas in 1862*, presented by Anthony Rushing

June 23, 2012

**Arkansas History Commission Civil War Workshop**, Capitol Building, Room 171, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email Jane Hooker at [jane.hooker@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.hooker@arkansas.gov) by June 20 to receive free lunch.

July 13-14, 2012

**Missouri State Genealogical Association Conference**, Columbia, Missouri, at the Stoney Creek Inn. Keynote Speakers are Pam Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, and Rick Sayre, CG, genealogy experts who will be presenting lectures on various land records and maps. Supporting speakers include Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL, Pamela Stone Eagleson, CG, Beth Foulke and Carole Goggin. For information contact [NancyThomas@Centurytel.net](mailto:NancyThomas@Centurytel.net) or phone 573.443.6052

August 29-September 1, 2012

**Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference**, *Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers in the "Old Southwest"*, Birmingham, Alabama, Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex and Sheraton Birmingham Hotel; details at <http://conferencenews.fgs.org/2012conference/>

## North Arkansas Ancestor Fair

The annual North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will be held Friday, June 1, 2012, at the Ozark Heritage Arts Center in Leslie, Arkansas, from 9:30 to 3:30.

### SESSION I: Searching Missouri Archives

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: *Arkansas Records in Missouri Archives: From Territory to Civil War* by Christina Miller, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon: *North Arkansas in Missouri State University Archives and the Ozarkiana Collection* by David Richards, Special Collections, Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri

### SESSION II: Military Records & Events

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: *Wilson's Creek (Oak Hills) Battlefield Archives: Digitization* by Jeffrey Patrick, Librarian, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and Brian Grubbs, Project Manager, Springfield-Green County Public Library

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: *Searcy County in 1862: Confederate Recruiting & Saltpeter Mining* by James J. Johnston, Searcy County Historical Society

On Saturday, June 2, the Genealogical Swap Meet will be held at the grade school cafeteria, Marshall, Arkansas, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. County historical societies and family historians will have tables to share information and to sell books. No registration is required for any event. Just show up; we'll find a place for you.

Contact: Shirley J. Gray by phone at 870-448-3308 or by email to [shirleysdream@windstream.net](mailto:shirleysdream@windstream.net)

More information at [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

## **Black History Commission of Arkansas**

On Wednesday, June 6, 2012, The Black History Commission of Arkansas will host a reception and program highlighting the accomplishments of the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant Program. The reception starts at 1 p.m. at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center; the program will follow. The Sykes grant program funds projects which advance black history endeavors across the state.

Governor Mike Beebe is scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the event. Other speakers will be incoming Speaker of the House Darrin Williams, Representatives Fred Allen and Fredrick Love of Little Rock, and members of the Black History Commission of Arkansas.

The presenters, who will update attendees on the status of successful grant projects, are Mable Bynum, North Little Rock, "Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Incorporated;" Ralph Porter, Hot Springs, "Friendship Cemetery Unknown Marker Project;" Patricia Washington McGraw, Little Rock, "The Three As: African, American, and Arkansas: Our History, Our Heritage;" Othella Faison, Little Rock, "Fargo Agricultural School Museum Project;" and Nancy Lott and Regina Norwood, Little Rock, "Friends of Josephine Pankey."

## From Lonoke County Museum

The Lonoke County Museum will be celebrating four Lonoke County men who became Governors of Arkansas.

*The Lonoke County Governors Tales From Beyond....and Dinner* will be presented Saturday, June 9, 2012, at the Lonoke Primary School, 800 Lincoln Street, Lonoke, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Guest Speaker, Lieut. Governor Mark Darr, will speak on the importance of saving local history. Master of Ceremonies will be Lonoke County Judge, Doug Erwin.

The Cast, telling interesting facts about themselves before, as Governor, or after their political career, will be:

State Representative Allen Kerr as Arkansas's 16th Governor, James P. Eagle

State Representative Walls McCrary as Arkansas's 23rd Governor, Joe T. Robinson

Lonoke County Justice of the Peace Bill Ryker as Arkansas's 24th Governor, W.K. Oldham

State Senator Eddie Joe Williams as Arkansas's 28th Governor, John E. Martineau

Education, history, fun and good food (pork loin and all the fixings)—what more could you ask for?

For tickets call Sherryl at 501 676-6750 or 501 676-6635.

## The Civil War in Saline County in 1862

Saline County historian and Bethel Middle School teacher Anthony Rushing will present a program entitled *The Civil War in Saline County in 1862* on Monday, June 18, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the Junior Fortnightly meeting room at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton.

Mr. Rushing has written on the Civil War in Saline County with books entitled *Ranks of Honor a regimental history of the eleventh Arkansas infantry regiment & Poe's Cavalry battalion C.S.A., 1861-1865* and *Along The Road To Glory*.

Mr. Rushing always does an excellent job in presenting history. This should be an interesting program.

## Arkansas History Commission Free Workshop

The Arkansas History Commission will present a free Civil War-themed workshop open to the public on June 23, 2012 in Room 171 at the Arkansas State Capitol. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. If you register in advance by June 20, lunch will be provided for you.

The featured speaker, Dr. Wendy Richter, will lecture on *The Rest of the Story: Arkansas's Own "Official Records"*. Other sessions will include "Proving Your Confederate Ancestry;" "E.W. Gantt;" "Disease and Medical Care During the Civil War;" "The 1911 Confederate Reunion;" and "The White River during the Civil War."

If you know a teacher looking for Arkansas History Professional Development credit, encourage them to register for the workshop which is approved by the Department of Education as a professional development opportunity for teachers of all grades and is open to the public.

Deadline for registration is June 20. To register or for more information, email Jane Hooker at [jane.hooker@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.hooker@arkansas.gov).

## Man in Civil War Photo, From the Washington Post submitted by Whitney McLaughlin

Man in Civil War photo, long unidentified, finally gets his name back By Michael E. Ruane, Friday, March 9, 5:57 AM

The old photograph shows a young Confederate soldier posing proudly in an elegant uniform, with a pistol in his belt and a saber in his hand. It is a well-known 1860s ambrotype worth thousands of dollars, and experts have identified the style of his buckle, the make of his revolver and the cavalry outfit in which he served.

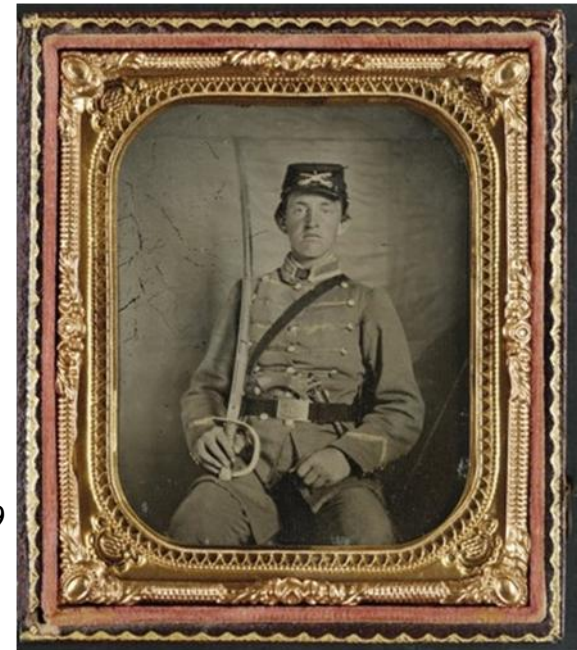
But scholars at the Library of Congress, which was given the photo last year, had no idea who he was. Like scores of forgotten Civil War portraits, his was listed as “unidentified.” Until this week.

Last Sunday, Karen Thatcher of Martinsburg, W.Va., opened a Washington Post Civil War history supplement. She spotted the picture in a Library of Congress advertisement, and realized: “That’s Uncle Dave!” In an instant, for posterity, the soldier was given back his name – and his story.

He was a teenager named David M. Thatcher, from Martinsburg, who enlisted in Company B, Berkeley Troop, First Virginia cavalry, and was killed in battle at age 19 outside Warrenton in 1863. He was buried in the cemetery at Martinsburg’s Tuscarora Presbyterian Church after, family lore has it, his parents brought his body home with a horse and wagon.

The identification has thrilled Karen Thatcher, a retired federal government worker, as well as the library and the collector, Tom Liljenquist, who purchased the picture several years ago and donated it in October. “We’re just tickled to death,” Thatcher said in a telephone interview on Wednesday. “There’s something very satisfying about this 19-year-old boy who died in 1863 who was [listed as] unidentified . . . that we’re able to put a name to that face.”

Liljenquist, who has given the library almost 1,000 Civil War portraits in recent months, said: “I’m just awestruck. . . . This anonymous young boy has gotten his life back.”



(continued on page 11)

**Man in Civil War photo** (continued from page 10)

The identification was made when Thatcher saw that the photo in the advertisement looked almost exactly like a larger image she had of David Thatcher, an ancestor of her husband, Larry. The larger image – which was likely copied from the photograph – is a “crayon enlargement,” said Carol Johnson, the Library of Congress’s curator of photographs.

It was a common 19th-century technique in which a smaller picture was enlarged, printed and then colored in with charcoal or chalk to make a bigger portrait. “That way, people would have something they could hang on their walls,” she said. “Since he died in the war, they probably had this made . . . as a way to remember him.”

What happened to the original photograph is less clear. “Maybe he gave it to his girlfriend, before he left for the war,” Johnson said.

Eventually, someone came into possession of it and didn’t know who he was, and it went onto the collectors market.

Johnson said experts were able to glean some information about the soldier from his uniform type and accouterments – his Virginia belt buckle, and the crossed sabers and number 1 on his cap. But his name remained elusive.

Liljenquist, of McLean, said he bought the picture years ago at a Civil War show, probably in Virginia. “It’s a well-known photograph,” he said. “It’s been published in a few books.” But no name was associated with it.

David Thatcher, it turns out, served in a storied unit that was originally commanded by the South’s legendary cavalry general J.E.B. Stuart. David Thatcher was killed on Oct. 19, 1863, in the Battle of Buckland Mills, which was such a complete Confederate victory that the rebels called it “the Buckland Races.”

His tombstone reads:

*When thou goest out to battle  
against thine enemies, be not  
afraid of them, for the Lord  
thy God is with thee.*

(continued on page 12)



## Man in Civil War Photo (continued from page 11)

Karen Thatcher said the Civil War still is “close” in her area and her family, with deep roots there, has long known of the story. “If you have a family member who dies at the age of 19 in the Civil War, everyone knows that,” she said. “And this picture was just always in the family. And so you just knew that that’s who it was.”

“My husband jokingly calls him ‘Uncle Dave,’ ” she said, although the soldier was three generations removed – technically a brother of her husband’s great-grandfather. She said she and her husband have a small pre-war photograph of David Thatcher in civilian clothes attached to a certificate honoring his death. That, too, resembles the other images.

She said their “crayon enlargement” was a copy of one that had been in her husband’s household when he grew up and was passed down to one of his nieces. “It looks like a drawing of a photograph,” she said.

A history lover, Karen Thatcher said she opened the Post’s Civil War section, and staring back was an identical copy of the picture that the niece had given them.

“Except, I could tell that it was a photograph . . . not a drawing of a photograph.”

“I thought, ‘Son of a gun.’ I thought, ‘Gee whiz.’ I thought, ‘Isn’t this amazing?’ ” she said.

She said she went to the library’s online gallery, and “there’s Uncle Dave.”

She called the Library of Congress on Monday morning.

Johnson, the curator, said the “unidentified” designation would likely be removed from the gallery Friday and replaced with David Thatcher’s name.

## **Archival quality materials for storing your family history** by Karen Russ, MLS

During the AGS Spring Workshop, attendees inquired at both the Arkansas History Commission booth and the Federal Government Documents booth about where to buy archival quality materials. Karen Russ, MLS, Government Documents Librarian-Assistant Professor, Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and AGS board member, has kindly sent us a list of retailers who can provide archival quality storage boxes and folders (acid- and lignin-free materials) for documents, photos, and other historic items. Below are vendors used most frequently by libraries and archival facilities in Arkansas. Your choice of vendor will vary according to the size and quantity of materials you desire.

Highsmith, 1-800-558-2110, [www.highsmith.com](http://www.highsmith.com)

Light Impressions, 1-800-975-6429, [www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com)

University Products, 1-800-628-1912, [www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com)

Hollenger Metal Edge, CA 1-800-862-2228, VA 1-800-634-0491, [www.hollengermetaledge.com](http://www.hollengermetaledge.com)

Demco, 1-800-279-1586, [www.demco.com](http://www.demco.com)

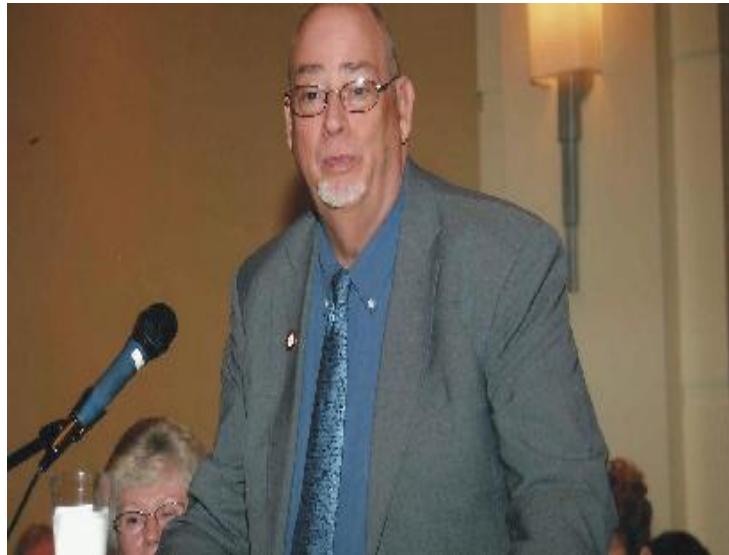
Century Photo, 1-800-975-6429, [www.centuryphoto.com](http://www.centuryphoto.com)

## AGS President Featured at Recent State DAR Meeting

Russell P. Baker, current president of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, was the featured speaker at the 104th Arkansas State Conference of the Daughters of the American Revolution held in Little Rock on March 22, 2012. His well-received remarks were entitled “Eternal Vigilance - Freedom’s Price”.

“Most historians,” he reminded his audience, “credit the American frontier experience with its individual isolation, unfriendly neighbors, and hostile geopolitics as important factors in the formation of the American character, a character defined by a strong sense of self-reliance and personal initiative found in few other places in the world.”

Mr. Baker, who recently retired from almost four decades with the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock, then reviewed our ancestors’ opportunities for possible military experiences and the records that relate to that service. In conclusion he quoted Vietnam War veteran General James E. Sehorn, “To be born free is an accident. To live free is a privilege. To die free is a responsibility.”



Many AGS members are also members of the DAR.

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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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