



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 8, No. 2, February 2013

Susan G. Boyle, editor
George Mitchell, list manager

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!

February is Black History Month. That is one reason there appear to be more genealogy and history programs this month than last. You will notice that several of the Upcoming Events we list on page three here are focused on Black History, two in Little Rock and one in Benton. There are probably a few in your area. Besides local programs, you may find some special things online.

Fold3.com, for instance, is offering free access to all records, photographs, and documents in their Black History Collection for the entire month of February. A search of these records will require registration but not a subscription. The records are arranged in four categories: Slavery, highlighting the stories of individuals and government issues dealing with slavery; the Civil War, illustrating the important roll African Americans played during the war and stories vital to understanding American history; Reconstruction and Jim Crow Laws, displaying the freedom blacks almost achieved after the war and the unjust conditions of segregation; World Wars I & II, providing insight into the world of blacks serving in a segregated military; and Civil Rights Movement, highlighting the events and individuals that pushed for the equal rights of all races. These encompass more than a million photographs and documents found no where else on the internet. To explore these records and search for specifics go to <http://go.fold3.com/blackhistory>.

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Tidbits —

Butler Banner Goes Digital

The *Butler Banner* is the newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, part of the Arkansas Studies Institute on the main Little Rock Library campus. You can now receive this newsletter in a digital version rather than in your mail box.

The email version will hold the same information for the subscriber but save on the cost of paper, printing, and postage for the Butler Center. In suppose in the long run, such savings could translate into more books and manuscripts.

To receive your copy by email, call Meg at 501-918-3033.

Get all of the information about these and other events at <http://www.cals.org>

Coming Events

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, February 1-3, 2013

The Independence County Historical Society & Batesville Community Theatre are presenting *War Chronicles II*, theatre performances at Independence Hall, U of A Community College, Batesville, 2005 White Dr. The story of the Civil War history of the county, 1863-1864, will be told through diaries & letters of those that lived there. Directed by author George Lankford, 800-508-7878. Times: Friday, Feb. 1, 7:00 pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 7:00 pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 2:00 pm.

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Growing Up in Arkansas—African American Communities, Arkansas State Capitol, Room 171, seminar sponsored by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission. Free. To register email Tatyana.Stubblefield@arkansas.gov or phone Tatyana at (501) 682-6900. See page 5.

Sunday, February 10, 2013

The Pulaski County Historical Society will meet at the Central High School National Historic Site, 2120 Daisy L. Gaston Bates Drive, 2:00 pm refreshments, 2:30 pm program; Rhonda Stewart of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will present “The Legacy of Richard Toombs.”

Monday and Tuesday, February 11-12, 2013

The Quilted History—A Tapestry of the African-American Experience, an exhibit by Ms. Carolyn Williams of El Dorado, Arkansas, 11:00 am-6:30 pm on Monday and 9:00 am-12 noon on Tuesday. Ms. Williams will present a program about her exhibit on Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 pm. Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Arkansas.

Coming Events continued

Thursday, February 14, 2013

The Civil War Roundtable of the Delta, 406 Perry St., Helena-West Helena, 7:00 pm; Pine Bluff native John Mitchell will present a lecture on the *Freedom Process* of the freed slaves throughout the state from 1862-1865. Free and open to the public. Contact Ronald@ArkansasHeritage.org.

Saturday, February 16, 2013

The Rogers Historical Museum presents *Civil War Secrets of Osage Springs*, 10 am to noon and 1:30 to 4 pm, at the Rogers Historical Museum Education Annex, 120 West Poplar, corner of Second and Poplar in the Rogers Historic District. Admission: \$5, space limited to 50. Tickets available at <http://rhmprograms.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Civil War Roundtable of Central Arkansas, Second Presbyterian Church, I-430 and Cantrell Road, Little Rock, Arkansas, 7:00 pm, *Enduring Legacy: Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause* by Stuart Towns, author. Open to public. Contact Rick Meadows at rmeadows@aaamissouri.com

March 9, 2013

Free *Genealogy For You Seminar* at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Arkansas. Mr. George G. Morgan of Tampa, Florida, will make four presentations: Session I is entitled *Getting the Most from Ancestry Library Edition*; Session II-*New Ways to Research Our Roots*; Session III-*Bits about Obits: Reading between the lines*; Session IV-*Alternate Records You May Have Never Considered*. Lunch will be on your own. Please register by calling 501-788-4766.

Seminar from the Black History Commission and the Arkansas History Commission

Wanting to learn more about African-American history in Arkansas? Mark your calendars for February 9, 2013 and attend the “Growing Up in Arkansas—African American Communities” seminar at the Arkansas State Capitol. Sponsored by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission, the free seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the Capitol.

Presenters will discuss the influences that shaped their formative years in the communities of El Dorado, Dark Hollow, Little Rock, Wabaseka, College Station/Granite Mountain and Pocahontas. A continental breakfast and catered lunch will be provided to participants who register on-line by February

5th. Click here to [register](#), or call Tatyana at (501) 682-6900. On-site registration will be available, but meals cannot be guaranteed for those registering the day of the presentation. Don't miss this interesting session! Register today!

Arkansas History Commission

One Capitol Mall

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

www.ark-ives.com

state.archives@arkansas.gov



FROM Rogers Historical Museum

The Rogers Historical Museum will present *Civil War Secrets of Osage Springs* on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at the Rogers Historical Museum Education Annex at 130 West Poplar at the corner of Second in the Rogers Historic District, 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4 p.m. In the case of inclement weather the date will be Saturday, February 23; notice of the change will be posted on the museum website, <http://www.rogersarkansas.com/museum>, and Facebook page. For information call Monte Harris at 479-621-1154 or email mharris@rogersark.org.

A day-long series of programs by Paul Dolle and Doug Kidd will include stories of intrigue, danger, and injustice that explore the Civil War history of the area around Osage Springs. Now called Pinnacle Springs, this water source once produced millions of gallons of water daily, even during hot dry summers. Osage Springs was historically recognized as one of the most important water sources in Northwest Arkansas, and at different times was a campsite to thousands of soldiers in both the Union and Confederate Armies.

Admission is \$5 and pre-registration is required as seating is limited to 50 people. For more information or to purchase tickets go to <http://rhmprograms.eventbrite.com>

The schedule includes a Civil War artifacts exhibit which opens for viewing at 10:00.

At 11:00 Civil War researcher and re-enactor Paul Dolle will share his research on Confederate guerilla fighter Major William “Buck” Brown and Osage Springs Civil War history. (continued on p. 7)



Rogers Historical Museum (continued)

At noon there will be a break for lunch.

At 1:30 Civil War re-enactor Doug Kidd will portray a Confederate soldier who finds two haversacks on the battlefield while escaping from Union soldiers.

From 2:30 to 4:00 the Civil War artifacts exhibit will be open for viewing and presenters will be available for questions.

This is a sanctioned event of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. For more information about the commission and about Arkansas' commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War go to <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com>.

This message was posted to the Arkansas history List-serve by Dr. Gaye Bland, Director of the Rogers Historical Museum.

<http://www.rogersarkansas.com/museum> Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RogersHistoricalMuseum>

Ancestry Day with the Midwest Genealogy Center

Many of you may not be aware of the Midwest Genealogy Center at the Mid-Continent Library in Independence, Missouri. It just happens to be among the larger and foremost genealogy libraries in the country. Here is an opportunity to combine a research trip to the Midwest Genealogy Center and a day with Ancestry.com experts.

On Saturday, March 16, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, and Ancestry.com will co-sponsor Ancestry Day at the Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs, Missouri. The Genealogy Center is open for research seven days a week. They will be providing free classes on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, but the website indicates the classes are filled already. They will also hold a free reception on Friday evening.

Featured on Saturday will be sessions taught by Ancestry.com staff members, Anne Mitchell and Lou Szucs, and staff from the Midwest Genealogy Center focusing on all levels of genealogy research.

Sessions include: Find Them Fast: Searching Secrets to Help You Find Your Ancestors' Stories on Ancestry.com, Extraordinary Clues in Ordinary Records, Mining Gold at Midwest Genealogy Center, Putting Your Ancestors in Historical Perspective: Extracting Stories from Military Records on Ancestry.com and Fold3, and Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com. The day will end with Stump the Experts, a panel discussion featuring staff from Midwest Genealogy Center and the Ancestry.com experts.

A welcome reception at the Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, Missouri, is offered on Friday, March 15, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for attendees to network and meet the Ancestry.com speakers. Limited space is available. Register now for this free event.

(continued on p. 9)



Ancestry Day (continued)

For information on location and hours go to <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/directions-and-hours>.

Early Bird registration is \$30. After March 1, \$35. Refunds given up to March 9, 2013. To register go to <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/ancestry-day>. If you have questions, please call 816-252-7228 and ask for Angela or Janice or email them at ge@mymcpl.org.

From the Encyclopedia of Arkansas: a new mobile version

Get the story of just about any Arkansas experience anywhere with the new mobile version of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies' Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) website.

The EOA is a free, authoritative source of information about the rich history, geography, and culture of Arkansas. Text entries and media galleries offer information about the people, places, events, culture, and lore of Arkansas. The mobile website will allow users to, for example, access an entry on the history of a town or city they might be visiting in a format specifically designed for smart phones. Specifics that a tour guide or a teacher leading a field trip could offer are available at the touch of a screen for any tourist or native Arkansan, and will make a visit to a Civil War site, a bathhouse in Hot Springs, or the Buffalo River more interesting and complete.

David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center, said, "Anyone exploring Arkansas can use a mobile device to read the EOA entry on a specific town, its county, a Civil War skirmish near there, and lots of other items about the area. Suddenly, the picture of the town has become more three-dimensional. We want everyone to have that kind of deep experience and engagement with Arkansas."

The mobile site was made possible by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council (AHC), which was an original supporter of the EOA project. In addition to the mobile website, the AHC grant also funded the development of more locally oriented content for the EOA, especially entries on many of the smaller communities across the state.

Smart phones and other mobile devices will access the mobile version of the site automatically, but readers can also see this version on their regular computers by going to <http://m.encyclopediaofarkansas.net>. The

Encyclopedia of Arkansas (continued)

mobile site also offers a Photo of the Day and a “This Day in Arkansas History.”

As of January 2013, the EOA has more than 3,100 entries and 4,200 pieces of media, all of which are accessible through the mobile site. New entries and media are being added every week. The EOA’s mission is to collect and disseminate information on all aspects of the state’s history and culture and to provide a comprehensive reference work for historians, teachers, students, and individuals for the purpose of promoting the study, understanding, and appreciation of Arkansas’s heritage.

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is a department of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs). It was founded in 1997 to promote the study and appreciation of Arkansas history and culture. The Butler Center’s research collections, art galleries, and offices are located in the Arkansas Studies Institute building at 401 President Clinton Ave. on the campus of the CALs Main Library.

Guy Lancaster

Editor, Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

In Memory of Wensil Dorothy Marsh Clark 1924-2012

The Arkansas genealogical community lost a dear friend and dedicated genealogist in December 2012. Wensil Clark touched many lives not only with her sweet personality but also with her caring and generous spirit of sharing her genealogical expertise. Wensil helped many of us document our ancestry to be eligible to join various patriotic organizations.

Wensil Dorothy Marsh Clark was born in Little Rock on 29 January 1924 and died in Little Rock 9 December 2012. She was the daughter of Dahlia Sarah (Hardcastle) and Homer Irvin Marsh. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Larry Preston Clark. Also preceding her in death was her son, Garry Preston Clark. She is survived by two daughters, Marsha Hylton and Renee Belote; one son-in-law, William Hylton; granddaughter, Kristina Marie Weaver, great-grandchildren, Andrew, Jacob, Rachel and Matthew Bolduc; a grandson, Anthony James “Tony” Weaver, his wife, Anne and a great-granddaughter, Olivia; a granddaughter, Sarah Hylton and a grandson, Harley Hylton; a granddaughter, Rosemarie Clark; a granddaughter, Ashley Musgrove and her husband, Troy, and two great-granddaughters, Dharma and Karma; grandson Thomas Michael Belote and his wife, Britt Walsh; grandson, Robert Michael Belote, and his wife, Nikki and a great-granddaughter, Avery.

Wensil’s many activities in and contributions to the genealogical community included the following:

Wensil served for 37 years as a Director/Board member of the **Arkansas Genealogical Society** including serving as Parliamentarian, Herald, Historian and on Audit and Seminar Committees. She was honored at the 2012 Fall Seminar for her many years of service. She first appears in the AGS records when her article, “Clark Family Information - Mayflower Decent” was published in the *Arkansas Family Historian* in 1973. The next year she was elected a “Director” as board members were called at that time.

Wensil served as president of **Arkansas Pioneers of Pulaski County** 1973-75 and 2001-2003. Her Arkansas Pioneer ancestor was James J. Jeffrey. She published a book for this organization titled *Arkansas Pioneers and Allied Families*, in 1976. She received a “Special Life Membership” from the Arkansas Pioneers Association of Pulaski County.

Wensil joined Gilbert Marshall Chapter, **Daughters of the American Revolution** on 6 October 1971; her Revolutionary War ancestor was James Hardcastle of North Carolina; Wensil served as Regent 1977-1979; 1987-88. Wensil also served as DAR State Histo-

Wensil Marsh Clark (continued)

rian 1980-1982.

Wensil was a member of the **Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club** which meets in North Little Rock once a month.

Wensil was a member of T. J. Churchill Chapter, **United Daughters of the Confederacy** and served as president 1971-1973. Her Confederate ancestor was William Alexander Parks who served with the 36th Arkansas Infantry, Co. "B".

Wensil was a member for many years of the John Eliot Chapter, **Colonial Dames of the XVII Century**.

Wensil was a member for many years of the LT Samuel Cherry Chapter of the **Daughters of American Colonists**.

AGS Board members who worked with Wensil offer these tributes:

From Russell Baker:

I never met a person like Wensil who liked to work, no matter how unsung, on any project, especially those relating to history and genealogy. If anyone had a project that needed working on, they called Wensil. She would get to it and do a great job as well. She never met a stranger and given enough time she never met someone that she could not find a common ancestor with, including me. I am proud to say that she was my "cousin" as well.

From Rita Henard:

I really loved Wensil. She was so sweet to everyone and her daughter's description of her of fit her to a "T"— she that Wensil would make you think you were her favorite. She just had that God given talent to make everyone feel important. I had the pleasure of Wensil riding with me to genealogy meetings and we really had some very good visits. I would not take anything for the time I got to spend with her. She was a wonderful person.

Lynda Childers Suffridge

Meet a new member of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Board of Directors

Brandon Ryan is a Software Engineer at ClearPointe, an Information Technology Management Services provider in Little Rock. He formerly worked as a Software Developer for Acxiom Corporation in Conway. He currently lives with his wife Jocelyn and their three cats in Conway.

Brandon was born and raised in Pine Bluff before graduating from Watson Chapel High School in 2000. After high school, he moved to Russellville and attended Arkansas Tech University where he earned a B.S. in Computer Science through the University Honors Program.

His interest in genealogy began in eighth grade after his history teacher assigned her class a project requiring each student to research and construct a family tree. The excitement of discovering his family history only grew stronger as he progressed through his education and realized how important today's technology can be in the many facets of genealogical research. His interests in digital image and document preservation, web development, data processing and social media, as well as his professional work as a software programmer, all combine to aid him in his research.

When he is not busy with genealogy, he also volunteers for the Humane Society of Faulkner County and performs in the Conway Men's Chorus. He and his wife love to travel whenever they can, especially if Brandon can find an opportunity to connect a trip with his research. He also occasionally admits to being a fan of Arkansas Razorback football.



Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! susanb1996@aol.com –Thanks!

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