



## Arkansas Genealogical Society

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AGS Ezine

Volume 8, No. 5, May 2013

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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 Arkansas History Commission will have a new Director beginning in June. This is important news for all researchers of Arkansas records because the Director manages not just the holdings, but also the day to day operations of the State Archives that have an impact on researchers. The way in which the Archives is managed can enhance or hinder our research experience and affect the way the archives is perceived.

The new Director is Dr. Lisa K. Speer who returns to Arkansas, where she was born and schooled, from the Southeast Missouri State University Archives. She comes with excellent credentials including multiple degrees in History and Library Science and Information Systems, as well as certification and experience in archival management.

Her background and experience bode well for the future of the Arkansas State Archives which operated for so many years in a reactive atmosphere and non-progressive isolation. Only in the last years under the most recent director, Dr. Wendy Richter, was any attempt made to modernize appearance and function, to add technology for patrons, to create a meaningful website, and to work toward online databases. The cataloging of archival and film collections using software was in itself a huge step forward, as was allowing employees to attend archival and state history conferences and actually interact with their peers from other institutions.

Surely Dr. Speer will be able to build on the blocks laid in the last few years and continue to improve the State Archives, increasing its outreach and moving it forward into the twenty-first century. The wonderful library and manuscript collections that she will oversee should be transparent and accessible to all of us. She will need our support. See page 7 here for more details.

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## Tidbits –

**May is Arkansas Heritage Month.** The theme is *Saving Our Heritage: Arkansas' Historic Structures*. Watch for talks and tours in your area.

**FamilySearch.org** has indexed over twenty-three million World War I draft registration cards from 1917-1918 that can be searched by name. A typical card lists full name, home address, date of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, employer, address of employer, height, build, eye color, hair color and name/address of next of kin. Including the latest addition, [FamilySearch](#) has indexed 86% of all US World War I draft cards. This is a good record set to search even if your ancestor did not serve in World War I. Men through the age of 45 were required to register. Access on FamilySearch.org is always free. Go to <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1968530>

**A book suggestion from Tom Dillard:** *African Americans of Pine Bluff and Jefferson County*, by Jimmy Cunningham, Jr. and Donna Cunningham, Arcadia Publishing. Copies can be obtained from the author at: [www.jimmysvoice.com](http://www.jimmysvoice.com) or email at [jimmyjam@mac.com](mailto:jimmyjam@mac.com). The author is a native of Pine Bluff, but he lives in Nashville now. This book reflects a good deal of research, with images contributed by many, many sources. [I did not know that a predecessor organization to the Nation of Islam existed in Pine Bluff in 1928, Noble Drew Ali's Moorish Science Temples.] [tomd@pgtc.com](mailto:tomd@pgtc.com)

## Coming Events

May through Saturday, June 15, 2013

**Portraits In Gray: A Civil War Photography Collection**, Laman Library Exhibit Hall, March 29-June 15, 2013; private collection of David Vaughn of Atlanta; for information contact [Dan.Noble@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:Dan.Noble@lamanlibrary.org) or 758-1720.

Saturday, May 4, 2013

**Civil War Symposium**, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, Jacksonville Museum of Military History, 100 Veterans Circle, Jacksonville; go to <http://www.reedsbridgebattlefield.com> or contact Jack Danielson 501-985-3670 for information.

Saturday and Sunday, May 4 -5, 2013

**150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chalk Bluff**, 10 miles north of Piggott, Arkansas, on Arkansas Highway 62 at Chalk Bluff Battlefield State Park, re-enactment and demonstrations. See [Arkansas Toothpick](#) for details.

Wednesday-Saturday, May 8-11, 2013

**"Building New Bridges"** National Genealogy Society (NGS) Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada  
[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info)

Thursday, May 9, 2013

**Arkansas Railroads** and general railroading, by Gerald Hook, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Hall, Pope County Library, Russellville, Arkansas

## Coming Events continued

Through Saturday, May 11, 2013

**Shiloh Museum**, Springdale, Arkansas, Photo Exhibit of Ozark log buildings, [www.shilohmuseum.org/about\\_us/calendar.php](http://www.shilohmuseum.org/about_us/calendar.php)

Monday, May 13, 2013

**Saline County's Historic Houses and Buildings**, Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 100 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.; Steve Perdue will present a program about Saline County buildings on the National Register. For information go to [www.salinecountylibrary.org](http://www.salinecountylibrary.org) or call 501-778-4766.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

**Caddo Mounds Along the Saline River**, Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, 100 Smithers Drive, Benton, Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.; program presented by the Ouachita Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society. For information go to [www.salinecountylibrary.org](http://www.salinecountylibrary.org) or call 501-778-4766.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

**Railroad 101, Arkansas Railroads**, by Mark Andrews from AETN who just finished a documentary for public television on the history of Arkansas Railroads; Heritage Hall, Pope County Library, Russellville, Arkansas, 6:00.

Friday, May 24-26, 2013

**150<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Helena/Fort Curtis**, for information go to <http://arkansastoothpick.com>

## Coming Events continued

Sunday, May 26, 2013

**Bushwackers & Scallywags- Civil War on the Sylamore**, Ozark Folk Center [www.ozarkfolkcenter.com](http://www.ozarkfolkcenter.com)

Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1, 2013

**Twenty-fourth North Arkansas Ancestor Fair**, Civil War Sesquicentennial, Leslie and Marshall, Arkansas. Four lectures and dinner on Friday, Ancestor Fair on Saturday. Contact: Shirley J. Gray 870-448-3308, email [shirleysdream@windstream.net](mailto:shirleysdream@windstream.net) or visit [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

Saturday, June 9, 2013

**Lonoke County Governors *Tales from Beyond*...and Dinner**, Lonoke Primary School, 800 Lincoln St., Lonoke, Arkansas; honoring James P. Eagle, Joe T. Robinson, John Martineau, and W. K. Oldham; a Lonoke County Museum Educational fundraiser, 5:30 till—; tickets \$20.

Saturday, July 13, 2013

**Butler Center for Arkansas Studies**, Annual Genealogy Workshop featuring Tony Burroughs, FREE, but you must register, [www.butlercenter.org/conference](http://www.butlercenter.org/conference).

## Twenty-fourth North Arkansas Ancestor Fair: Civil War Sesquicentennial

The annual North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will take place on May 31 and June 1, 2013 with events in both Leslie and Marshall.

Friday, May 31, 2013

SESSION I: Ozark Heritage Arts Center, Leslie: Searching Arkansas Archives, \$5

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: An Overview of Civil War Resources by Mary Dunn, Arkansas History Commission

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon: Official Records of the Civil War in Arkansas by Anna Pfeiffer, Arkansas History Commission

SESSION II: Ozark Heritage Arts Center: Military Records & Events, \$5

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Looking Back at the Civil War Through the Records, by Brian Irby, Arkansas History Commission

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Searcy County in 1863: Confederate Guerrillas & Union Recruiters by James J Johnston, Searcy County Historical Society

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: MIXER DINNER, \$10, at Petit Jean Co-op, Airport Road, Marshall

Saturday, June 1, 2013

ANCESTOR FAIR: Marshall Civic Center (Air Conditioned): Zack Road

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: Providers set up

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: ANCESTOR FAIR (Free) Genealogical Swap Meet. No registration required for any event. Just show up; we'll find a place for you.

Contact: Shirley J. Gray 870-448-3308; [shirleysdream@windstream.net](mailto:shirleysdream@windstream.net) or visit [www.ancestorfair.us](http://www.ancestorfair.us)

## A New State Historian and Director for the Arkansas History Commission

Dr. Lisa K. Speer has been selected as the new State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission, which is the official state archives. The announcement was made by Dr. Ray Granade, chair of the Arkansas History Commission and Richard Davies, Director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. The main State Archives is in Little Rock with additional research facilities in Washington in the southwest and Powhatan in the northeast part of the state. Dr. Speer replaces Dr. Wendy Richter who resigned in December 2012 to return “home” to Ouachita Baptist University.

Dr. Speer appears to be extremely qualified and well-rounded in history and archives. She was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and grew up in Malvern. She graduated from Glen Rose High School and earned a degree in History from Ouachita Baptist University in 1988. Her credentials are enhanced by an MA and PhD in American History from the University of Mississippi, where she was a Curator of the Mississippi Collection in the University Archives and Special Collections. Also to her credit is an MA in Library and Information Sciences with archival certification from the University of Alabama where she served as an archival technician. Most recently she has headed the Special Collections and Archives at Southeast Missouri State University.

The new director has been published in scholarly journals and in archival, library, and historical publications. She has written more than forty book reviews and authored essays for the future Mississippi Encyclopedia. She is experienced in presenting to academics and scholars, as well as to local historical, preservationist, and genealogical societies. As a member of the Society of American Archivists, she serves on its membership committee and is a reviewer for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries and American Reference Books Annual*.

Dr. Speer will begin her duties on June 3. In the meantime Jane Wilkerson will continue to serve as Interim Director.

## ***In Remembrance* Debuts as Comprehensive Online Index of Arkansas Deaths 1819-1920**

The Arkansas History Commission is pleased to announce the launch of *In Remembrance*, an online database of Arkansas deaths from 1819-1920. Designed to supplement Arkansas's vital records service which began in 1914, *In Remembrance* provides researchers with the location of death records in early Arkansas. The data has been collected from numerous sources including church publications, cemetery records, mortality census schedules, newspaper obituaries, or county and local records from the AHC's extensive holdings.

Easily found as a link under the CARAT icon on the History Commission's website, [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com), the *In Remembrance* database provides information about family and historical figures from every area of the state, showing the name attached to the death record, the source in which to find the death record, and the record's date. In the case of obituaries and similar records, the recorded date is the day on which the obituary was published, not necessarily the day the person died, while cemetery records show the date listed on the person's gravestone. Duplicate entries from different sources are also included in the database to aid researchers in finding multiple records for one individual. For example, there are two entries for one A. Jones with a death date of August 17, 1902. One record is from the Arkansas Census of Cemeteries, Faulkner County, while the other is from the Arkansas Confederate Pension Records, indicating that A. Jones was a Confederate veteran.

"Seeing this massive project become a reality is very exciting," enthused Jane Wilkerson, Interim Director of the Commission. "Researchers who only have a name of an ancestor now have access to multiple sources in one easy search. Before *In Remembrance*, if you didn't know where your relatives settled, it could have taken days or weeks of labor-intensive searching through microfilm and publications to locate your ancestors. This database saves our patrons so much time and is easy to use," she continued.

*In Remembrance* is an on-going project. More than a year of planning and data entry by dozens of AHC staff and volunteers made this project a reality. Thousands of entries go into the database every month, currently the online index holds 118,786 entries. Volunteers occupy a special place in the *In Remembrance* project, working alongside AHC staff at their own pace, in many cases from their own homes, helping to add names to this extensive index. If you are interested in volunteering for the *In Remembrance* project, please email [Mary Dunn](mailto:Mary.Dunn@ark-ives.com), Archival Manager at the Commission.

## Internship available for Southwest Arkansas in Summer 2013

A joint venture of Historic Washington State Park, SARA Foundation, and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas, has an intern position available for the period of June 4 to August 10, 2013.

The intern will work at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, 201 Highway 195 South, Washington, Arkansas 71862.

Duties will include transcribing handwritten historic documents from the Freedman's Bureau Records on microfilm, research on historic figures related to Washington and other duties as assigned. The work week will be 40 hours from 8:00 to 4:30 Tuesday through Saturday. Work activities will be under the supervision of the Archival Manager at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives.

Compensation will be \$2,500 for the period of the internship paid in increments every two weeks by SARA Foundation. Housing in the park is provided and includes the Vandenburg House with kitchen, bath, two bedrooms and living room. Utilities are provided by the park and include electric, water, gas and local phone.

Requirements include interest in history and historic research, good computer skills and ability to do close work with attention to detail. The applicant should have a college degree or a degree in progress. This position offers immersion in historic Washington and in Reconstruction in post-Civil War Southwest Arkansas. The applicant should be at least 18 years of age.

Send a letter of application and resume/references by May 11, 2013, to:

Peggy S. Lloyd, Archival Manager, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, PO Box 134, Washington, AR 71862 or e-mail [peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov](mailto:peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov). Phone: 870-983-2633; FAX: 870-983-2636. [www.southwestarchives.com](http://www.southwestarchives.com). The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives is a branch of the Arkansas History Commission, 1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

## Register for 2013 FGS Conference

“Journey through Generations” - A Conference for the Nation’s Genealogists

Online registration is now open for the 2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, scheduled for 21-24 August 2013 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Register at <http://www.fgsconference.org> by 1 July 2013 for an early-bird discount. This year’s conference theme is “Journey through Generations,” and the local hosts are the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) and the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI).

This year’s FGS conference offers an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in researching their family history. This conference will offer over 160 educational sessions on records, strategies, and tools for genealogists of all levels. Ten different sponsored luncheons will provide opportunities for networking. Session sponsors include FamilySearch, findmypast.com, Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Fold3, Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, National Archives and Records Administration, and the Indiana Historical Society.



### Conference Highlights

**Conference Sessions:** A wide variety of genealogy-related lectures and workshops for all experience levels. Attendees will be able to learn about Midwest research, African American research, European research, military research, genetics, technology, migration, methodology and more.

**Focus on Societies:** On Wednesday, August 21, 2013, sessions are jam-packed with ideas and tools to help societies promote themselves, increase membership, and develop sources of revenue.

**Librarians’ Day:** On Tuesday, August 20, 2013, ProQuest will sponsor a full pre-conference day of sessions designed

## FGS Conference

for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals serving family history researchers.

**Special Events:** Include FGS Opening Social at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and “Journey Through the Generations with Our Veterans” at the Allen County Public Library.

**Exhibit Hall:** The large exhibit hall will feature the latest software, books, maps, databases and gadgets on the market for genealogists and family historians, as well as information about genealogical organizations. Representatives of FGS member societies will staff their booths in the special Society Showcase area.

**Extended Hours at ACPL:** The Genealogy Center at ACPL will open early and stay open late during the FGS 2013 conference week to help genealogists maximize their research time.

There are more activities and research opportunities too numerous to list. However, you can learn all about the 2013 FGS Conference and register for this exciting four-day event at <http://www.fgsconference.org>. Be sure to also visit or subscribe to the FGS Conference Blog at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org> for more information.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Wayne in August!

### Learn More and Stay Connected

Like the conference on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/FGSconference>.

Follow the conference on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/FGSconference> and hashtag #FGS2013.

Visit Fort Wayne at <http://www.visitfortwayne.com/FGS>.

## Palaeography Tutorial

If you are looking for help in deciphering old English handwriting The National Archives (TNA) of the United Kingdom has a palaeography tutorial online at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/> that is sure to help you. The title is Palaeography: reading old handwriting 1500-1800, a practical online tutorial.

Many researchers bemoan the difficulty or impossibility of reading old English documents. I have been known to start reading an old English parish register at the point where it was actually legible and then move backward through the pages to get used to the changes in the handwriting gradually. Keep in mind that the handwriting of seventeenth and eighteenth-century England came to America with the Irish, Scots, and English colonists, so this tutorial will help you with your early American colonial documents.

The tutorial is practical, as it claims to be. It begins with suggestions on where to begin such as reading letter by letter, knowing the background of the document because standard phrases or formulas may apply; transcribing exactly, not translating; knowing that spelling will vary and archaic words will be present; being aware of the use of y for i and the interchangeable i and j and u and v; distinguishing long s from f which has a cross-stroke; recognizing abbreviations and the thorn, an old English th that looked like a y and was not pronounced ye.

A very helpful Quick Reference section covers dates including calendar years and the change from Julian calendar to Gregorian calendar; regnal years based on the years of the reigns of kings or queens; numbers in both classic (Roman) and English style; money; measurements; and English counties with their standard abbreviations.

The interactive tutorial contains documents for you to transcribe from easiest to most difficult and further practice beyond that point.

This is a great site for you to bookmark, if just for reference or for practicing to read the old handwriting.

## Free Professional Development Workshop

The Arkansas Heritage Sites at Arkansas State University will host a free professional development workshop in June at the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center. The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum includes a barn-studio associated with American writer, Ernest Hemingway, and the family of his second wife, Pauline Pfeifer. Portions of one of Hemingway's most famous novels, *A Farewell to Arms*, and several short stories were written in this studio.

The workshop will provide six hours of in-service credit. All workshop themes and activities align with the English Language Arts Common Core Standards and Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks. The workshop is designed to feature the multi-topic and interdisciplinary educational opportunities available through a great and unique Arkansas Delta site.

The workshop will be held June 25, 2013, 9-3:30 PM: Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum & Educational Center, Piggott, Arkansas. <http://hemingway.astate.edu/>

The theme is “The Hemingway Connection.” *This workshop will focus on Ernest Hemingway's connection to the Pfeiffer Family of Piggott, and his contribution to Arkansas's literary legacy. The workshop will include a program on the Hemingway-Pfeiffer connection, a tour of the site, hands-on activities incorporating primary sources, such as family letters, and a tour of the Matilda and Karl Pfeiffer Museum featuring the Pfeiffer Native American Artifacts Collection.*

For those who are interested in registering for the workshop, registration is available through the Arkansas Heritage Sites website on either the home page or the education page (the registration tool is located in the left hand side link menu): <http://arkansasheritagesites.astate.edu/AHS/> OR interested individuals can register for the workshop by contacting Rachel Miller: [rachel.miller@mail.astate.edu](mailto:rachel.miller@mail.astate.edu) Rachel M. Miller, MA Heritage Studies Ph.D. Program, Arkansas Heritage Sites, Arkansas State University <http://arkansasheritagesites.astate.edu/AHS/>

## Tips for Researching Ancestors in Institutions

Over the years numerous family historians have asked questions about researching ancestors who had been committed to mental hospitals, TB sanitoriums, and orphanages. In many cases few records are extant for such institutions and/or they are not available to the public.

On March 22, 2013 **UpFront WITH NGS** by Diane L Richard provided some tips and links to articles concerning this topic and I thought they might be helpful to you:

Kathleen Brandt (a3Genealogy) posted a piece titled [Tips on Researching Institutional Ancestors](#). Do read her post as well as the provided comments.

I have written about my one “known” insane ancestor who became a “mad hatter” and for whom I have seen a postmortem photograph. [Postmortem photography at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century](#).

Some related articles you might check out:

[Women and the Insane Asylum](#) (Tina Sansone)

[Insane Asylums and Family Research](#) (Elisa Black-Taylor)

[How to Trace Ancestors in Lunatic Asylums](#) (UK - WDYTYA Magazine)

[Medical & Medicine > Hospitals, Asylums & Sanitariums](#) (Cyndi's List)



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### **Administrative Stuff**

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

**AGS:** To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

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