



AGS Ezine

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Coming Events

Click on link below for information on other events around the state,

<https://heritageseekersar.weebly.com/around-arkansas.html>

Letters to Santa

by Jane A. Wilkerson

When doing research it is always fun to browse through your ancestor's local newspapers. One special feature around Christmas time is the "Dear Santa Letter" section. It serves as a picture of social culture over the decades. Check out the following sites to see if your ancestors wrote to Santa Claus: Newspapers.com; Genealogybank.com; newspaperarchive.com; and chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

Here are just a few examples:

Arkansas Gazette, 22 December 1892

Dear Santa Claus

Please send me a shot gun, engine & train of cars, drum, nice books for Brother pretty building blocks and fire engine.

Earl Watkins Frazier.

9 miles in country.

Jonesboro Evening Sun, 17 December 1906

Jonesboro, Ark., Dec. 14, '06

Dear Santa:

I am a little boy 4 years old, and I want you to please bring me a[n] automobile and a horn and a drum and a pair of rubber boots, fruits candy and nuts so please don't forget.

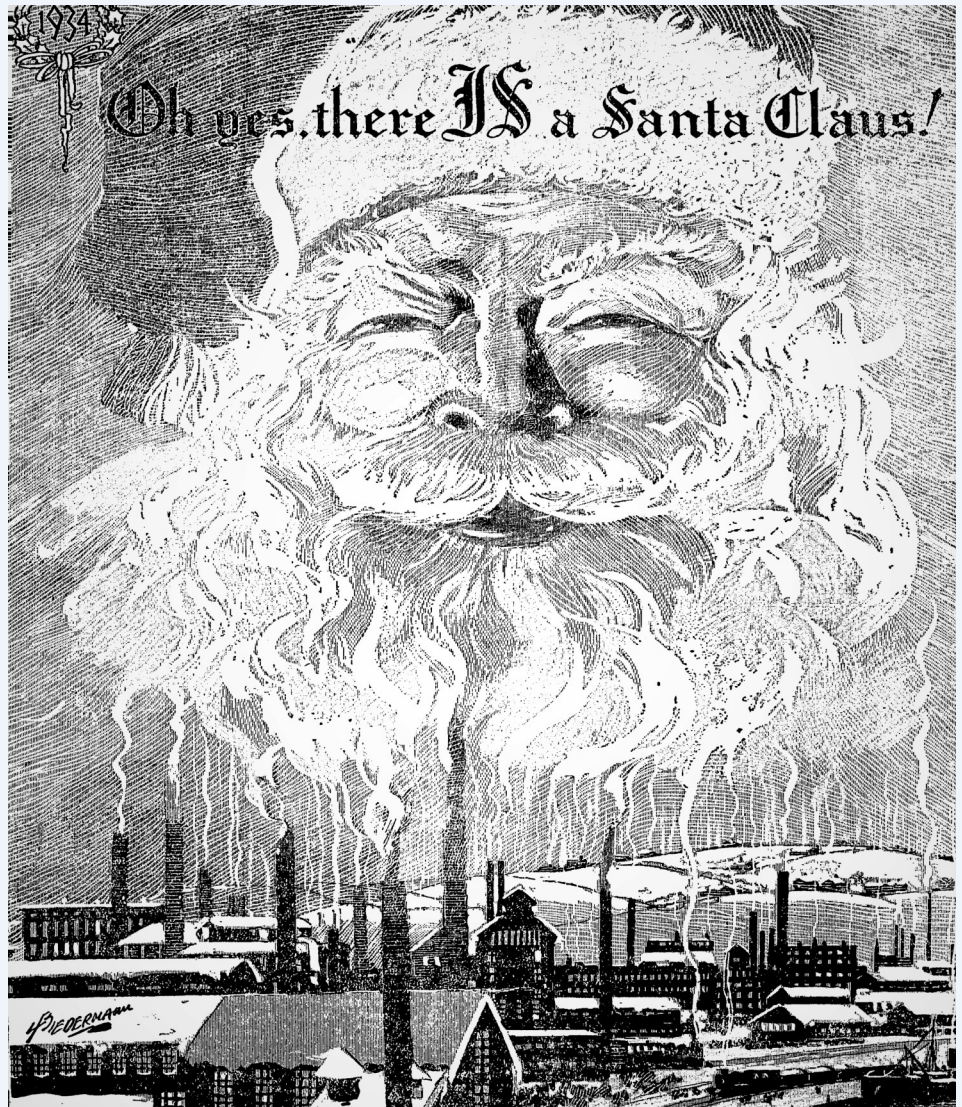
Pat Lyon

Ozark Spectator, 20 December 1916

Cass, Ark.

Dear old Santa: I am a little girl 5 years old, I am a good little girl and I want you to bring me a little red rocking chair, a hair ribbon, some candy, nuts and an orange, and don't forget my dear old Grand-pa and Grand-ma Tompkins. So bye bye.

Vivian McIlroy.



Harrison Daily Times, 24 December, 1934

Batesville Daily Guard, 18 December 1923

Batesville, Ark., Dec. 14, 1923

Dear Santa Clause:

I am a little girl eight years old. I have been on the honor roll every month this year. I want you to bring me a pair of gloves, a doll, a little set of knives and forks, oranges, apples, nuts and candy and don't forget all the other little children. Your little girl,

Virginia Owens

Harrison Daily Times, 24 December 1930

Harrison, Ark

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy eight years old. I go to school every day and try to be a good boy. I fail a good deal but I want to do what is right. I would like to have a bicycle, a suit of clothes and a cap. I know there are a lot of other little boys and girls that need many things worse than I do, but if you can supply their wants and spare me the things I am asking for I will be very happy and will try my dead level best to be a good boy all thru the Year.

Your friend

John Paul Hammerschmidt

Northwest Arkansas Times (Fayetteville, AR),
24 November 1943

Dear Santa:

Will you please bring me a little doll bed, quilt and pillow if Uncle Sam will let you have it. Bring me some cute doll dresses and house coat, two or three what-nots, one little sewing tray one pair doll shoes.

I will be a good girl. I love you.

Eudora Horton

Northwest Arkansas Times (Fayetteville, AR),
13 December 1950

Dear Santa,

I am a little Boy 4 ½ years old and I have tried to be a good little boy. Please bring me a big dump truck, blackboard and just anything else you can. And please Santa don't forget my little cousins, Gary Don, Gary Lynn and Carole and all my other little friends.

I will be looking for you soon,

Your little friend

Ronnie Paul Watts
318 So. Washington

Baxter Bulletin (Mountain Home), 9 December 1969

Dear Santa,

I am five years old and would like to have a bicycle. I don't need training wheels. I have a brother named Barry Paul, who wants a big red wagon, and a sister named Tammy who is in school this year. She wants so much, so just bring her what you think she needs. Thank you.

Originally appeared in the Batesville Guard.

Courier-Index (Marianna), 9 December 1976

Dear Santa,

Stretch Armstrong, Green Machine, a book about you, woodstock, magic show, Holy Bible. Bring me those things, Please!

Mark Hopper

Baxter Bulletin (Mountain Home), 24 December 1984

Dear Santa,

My name is Kandice Mell and I am 2 ½ years old. I have tried to be a good girl this year but it is very hard at my age. Thank you for my toys last year. I have enjoyed playing with them.

This Year I would like a Preemie Cabbage Patch Kid with no hair, a stove, a picnic table, and a tricycle. I would also like some blankets and clothes for my Cabbage Patch Kid, please. I hope that's not too much to fit into your bag. Santa, please don't forget my friend Cameron, 9 months. This is his first Christmas and he has been a very good baby this year.

I will leave milk and cookies for you. Watch out for my cat, Buffy, when you come in the door. Hope you have a nice trip.

Kandi Mell
Mountain Home

Blytheville Courier News, 23 December 1992

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a fold up couch and chair and a snakes and spiders and slimy gak and a real monster truck. A pet bat and 2nd Genisus, talking bird and a German, real German, shepards, Dobermans, bulldogs.

Aaron Brassfield

Genealogists, police work to solve cold cases through genealogy DNA databases

DNA researchers, genealogists and law enforcement agencies continue to form closer relationships as DNA evidence helps solve crimes/exonerates the wrongly accused. According to the Idaho Press, funding awarded to the Idaho State Police's Forensic Services will allow the agency to examine more than 50 cold cases in hopes of bringing justice and closure to victims. Could this also work extensively in Arkansas?

More than \$750,000 was allocated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to help enhance forensic services in Idaho. Roughly \$150,000 will go toward helping to solve crimes using a new technique called "forensic molecular genetic genealogy." "We don't want it to stop at just identifying a potential perpetrator. We want these to result in successful prosecutions, or in some instances, it might result in exonerations," said an investigator who was unable to comment on specific cases, since the investigations remain ongoing.

The team will work with professional genealogists, who use the molecular biology information in "public opt-in genealogy DNA databases," such as [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), [GEDMatch](https://www.gedmatch.com) or [23andMe](https://www.23andme.com), to hopefully narrow in on a suspect. All of the cold cases they are examining involve serious violent crimes such as assault, rape and murder. Some are relatively newer, while others date back several decades.

Family Traditions In A Pandemic

by Andria Yakoubian

Creating memories is why many families maintain holiday traditions. Sometimes traditions are created in memory of someone who may no longer be celebrating with the family. These festivities help bond with those you love.

Heading toward the holidays during a pandemic may mean families need to work harder to bring those traditions alive. Whether to keep it simple or to go all out. Here's some things to think about:

What would Grandma do?

What's a food or smell that makes you feel nostalgic?

Cutting down or putting up a Christmas tree on a certain day every year.

A favorite holiday dish.

A family recipe that has been passed down through the generations.

An activity you did as a child around and about the holidays.

Write a story.

Holiday Family Traditions has never been as important as they are this year, but please remember to follow CDC guidelines for your gatherings.

New techniques, resources, and strategies to be explored at the NGS 2021 Family History Conference.

The upcoming NGS 2021 Family History Conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia, and will offer an expansive series of lectures to advance research. Registration begins in mid-January.

Richmond is also easily accessible and has several outstanding genealogical research facilities, including the Library of Virginia just a few blocks away.

The NGS Family History Conference, 19–22 May 2021, is an opportunity to choose from more than 175 lectures, presented by many nationally recognized speakers, explore an exhibit hall filled with a host of exhibitors, and network with fellow genealogists.

With the merger of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and NGS in the fall of 2020, NGS is excited to announce a new program called Focus on Societies which includes a full day of lectures, workshops, and panels on Tuesday, 18 May.

NGS hopes that COVID-19 will not be a factor in May 2021; however, contingency plans will be in place for any eventuality and to ensure the health and safety of registrants, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff. The 2020 conference was held virtually.



ARKANSAS DIGITAL ARCHIVES

**Arkansas State Archives digital site named one of the
“75 Best State Genealogy Websites of 2020”
by Family Tree Magazine in October**

Check it out at <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/>

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To agscontributions@gmail.com —Thanks!

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