



# The Salt Shaker

Volume 6 Number 1

Award Winning Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society ©

Spring 2020

## Special points of

### Interest:

- Shawn Hipskid on his plans for Downtown Benton
- Russell Baker speaker in February
- History of the Reform Community in March
- The History of Downtown Benton Banks
- Arnold Wright Donates Veteran Papers.
- Benton State Bank scrapbooks



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## Russell Baker , former archival manager of the Arkansas State Archives, to speak in February.

On Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 pm, Russell Baker, former archival manager of the Arkansas State Archives will be presenting the topic “Breaking Through Research Brick Walls in Genealogy Research.”

Mr. Baker received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and he also received a Masters in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Baker has spoken both state wide and nationally at Genealogical conferences. He has written extensively on records in Arkansas and how to use them. He has writ-

ten several books on Arkansas research. From Memdag to Norsk a history of post offices in Arkansas. He has also written on a township history of Arkansas.

He has served as President of the Arkansas Genealogical Society and served on the board of this organization for many years.

Mr. Baker always gives and entertaining presentation and a presentation where you learn some interesting information.

The program will be held at 123 North Market Street in Benton.



Russell Baker

## Shawn Hipskid gives an update on his renovation of the Palace Theater in Benton



On January 16, Shawn Hipskid who is changing downtown Benton spoke to the members of the Saline County History & Heritage Society about his plans. A large crowd listened to this young Michigan native as he spoke of his plans to re-invent the historic Palace Theater into a

Restaurant and possible bnb for visitors to Benton to enjoy. He also mentioned that Coffee with a Cause will have its shop in the back of the old theater.

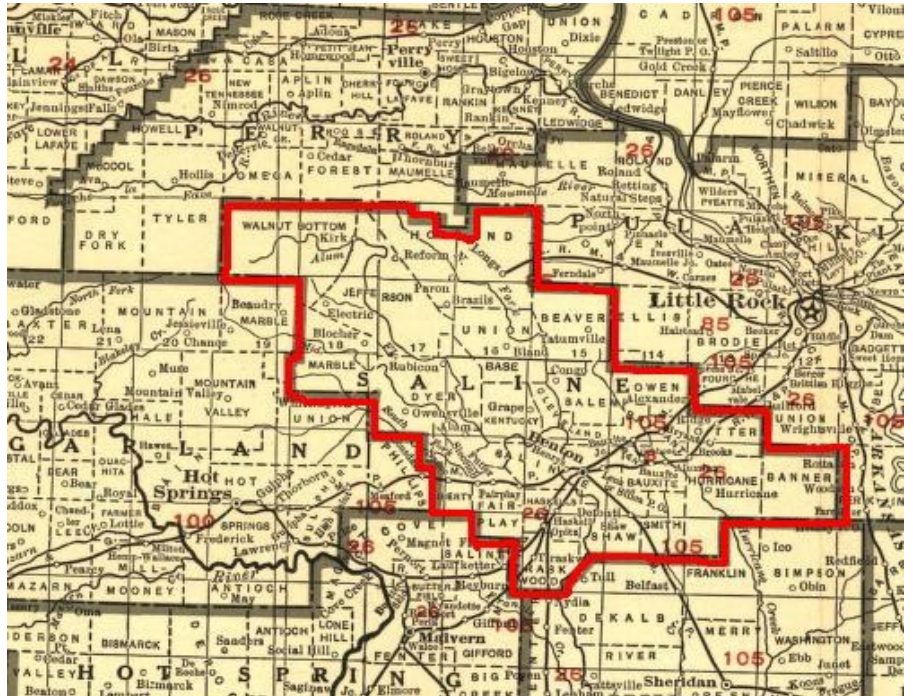
Everyone was very attentive to his presentation and enjoyed his enthusiasm.

## The History of Reform community in Saline County to be topic in March

First Vice President, Shirley Parson Coppock will present the program on the Reform community as the topic for March. The program will be held on Thursday March 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Shirley Coppock has worked as a reporter for the Saline County News and is the author of the book the History of the Shaw Community. She is a graduate of Bauxite High School and is very active in the Provincia De LaSalle chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This will be a good program about an obscure community in Saline County. Make plans to come and learn some Saline County History.



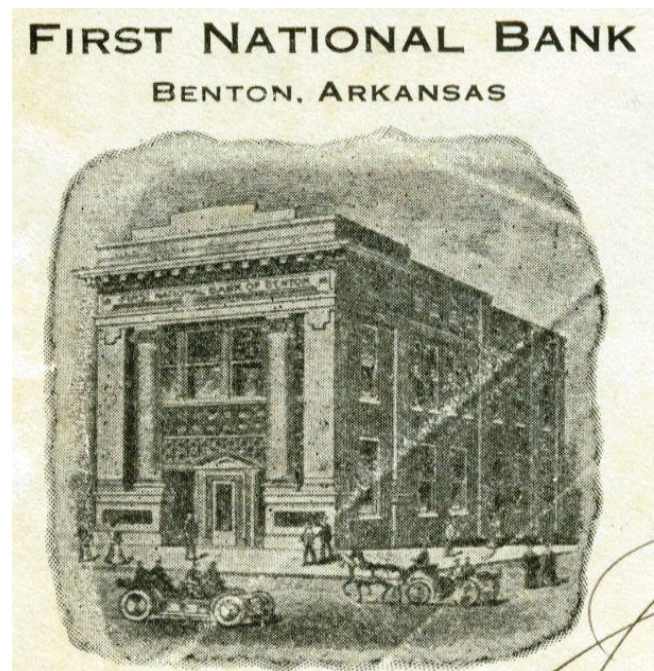
## HISTORY OF THE DOWNTOWN BENTON BANKS IN APRIL BY STEVE PERDUE

With the closing of the downtown Regions Bank on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm a presentation on the History of the Downtown Benton Banks will be presented by Steve Perdue on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm at the SCHHS Archives and Family History Research Room . Due to Third Thursday, the date may change so watch the Saline Courier for updates and possible new dates for the program.

There has been a bank on the corner of Market and South Streets for over one hundred years, and with the closing of Regions Bank, this will end.

Steve Perdue, will give a brief history of the previous banks which have occupied 146 West South Street and also a look back at other downtown Benton banks over the years. This should be an interesting look back at our downtown history.

The program is scheduled on Thursdsy, April 16, but due to Third Thursday in downtown Benton our meeting date may change. Check the Courier.



## May program will feature David Ware, new Arkansas State Historian

Dr. David Ware, formerly the Arkansas State Capitol historian for 19 years was recently named to the position of Arkansas State Historian replacing Dr. Wendy Richter, who resigned for health reasons.

Ware earned a B.A. in French literature from the University of Nebraska, an M.A. in history from the University of Wyoming and a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Arizona State University.

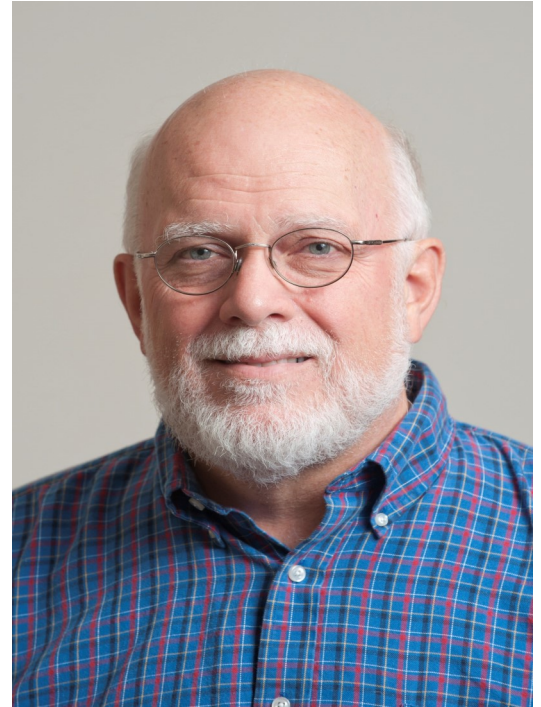
Prior to his service as the state capitol historian, he was an archives assistant at UA Little Rock; project historian at Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum in Wyoming; and curator of exhibits and collections at Western Heritage Center in Billings, Mont.

He has written articles and reviews for publications such as the Journal of Arizona History and the Encyclopedia of Arkansas and has written *It's Official! The Real Stories behind Arkansas's State Symbols*, published by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

The program will take place on Thursday, May 21, unless the date is changed due to Third Thursday. The meeting will be held at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Ware will present his goals and ideas for the Arkansas State Archives in the future.

Please make plans to attend the meeting.



Dr. David Ware

## Historic Benton State Bank Scrapbooks Donated to SCHHS

The Saline County History & Heritage Society has recently received the donation of several Benton State Bank scrapbooks and the 50th Anniversary scrapbook of the founding of the Benton State Bank which was held in 1984. Also the memorial clock that was presented to Mrs. Alsobrooks in memory of her husband W. R. Alsobrooks, the founder of Benton State Bank in 1934.

SCHHS member Steve Perdue contacted the current President of Regions Bank in Benton, to see if the bank had any items that the historical society might have since the downtown location of the Regions Bank will close on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

The President of the Bank showed several boxes of materials from the 50th Anniversary of the old Benton State Bank and offered these to the society. We are very grateful for this donation.

Benton State Bank was a part of Benton's banking history from 1934 to the early 1990's.



# SALINE COUNTY HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Steve Perdue Editor of the Salt Shaker



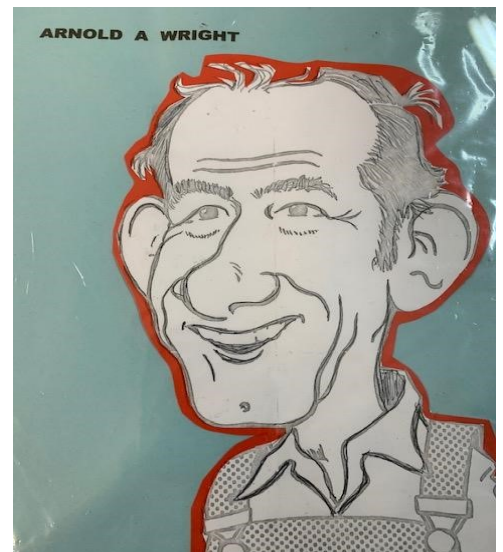
Steve Perdue Collection

Benton State Bank Employees Christmas Party  
at Pats Café c.1950's

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## Daughter of Arnold A. Wright donates some papers to SCHHS

Tami Wright Thomas cleaned out Arnold Wright's office and donated certain items to the Saline County History & Heritage Society. We are so grateful for the donation. It contains items such as papers from his book on Saline County World War II veterans, information on his books, other memorabilia which Arnold collected. We appreciate Tami and the Wright family for their donation.



Arnold A. Wright Caricature