



Volume 1 Issue 4

Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society

Winter 2015

Special points of interest:

- Donnie Burks presents program about Benton Athletic Museum.
- Donation of Historic Finds
- 1952 Paron Tornado
- Bennett, New Hope, and Social Hill Communities
- End - of -Year Dinner Meeting Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 pm



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Donnie Burks to present program about The Benton Athletic Museum October 15th

Donnie Burks, director of the Hardin Museum on the campus of Benton High School, will present the October 15th program at the Benton Athletic Museum, 211 N. Border Street at 7:00 pm. Donnie always has a story to tell and it will be interesting to learn about the museum and the new collections available to view.

Donnie was a fixture on Benton radio for many years during the Benton football season. He is a 1967 graduate of Benton High School. He is retired from state government and occasionally substitutes at Benton High School. The Benton Athletic Memorial Museum is unique in that it houses Benton Panther memora-

bilia which tells the history of Benton athletics and extra-curricular activities of the Benton school district.

Donnie Burks pictured at right



1916 state champions

The Benton High School football team of 1916 earned a spot in the record books by becoming state champions. The highlight for the team was overpowering the Little Rock team and its star player, Alvin Bell. Ernest Houston, a resident of Little Rock since 1929, is the only surviving member of the team. Pictured are, front row from left: Delbert Holliman, tackle; Frenchie (last name unknown); Dallas Parker, guard; Sam Scott, coach; Willie Lewis, center; unidentified; Ben Searcy, tackle; Willie Walton, guard; second row, Artin Glass, utility and water boy; Cecil Brewer, utility; Ernest Houston, halfback; Leon Murray, fullback, largest man on team; Andy Deaton, fullback; Ernest Parker, halfback; George Crip Cole, quarterback.

Brandon Sutton and Joey McCann donate items found with Metal Detector from Benton area and Jenkins Ferry



Joey McCann, Steve Perdue, Brandon Sutton

Brandon Sutton and Joey McCann donated over 100 objects that they found while using their metal detector in Grant and Saline Counties. Some of the items included mini balls, toys, buttons, coins and other items. They found several items at old home places in Benton and they wanted the Saline County History &

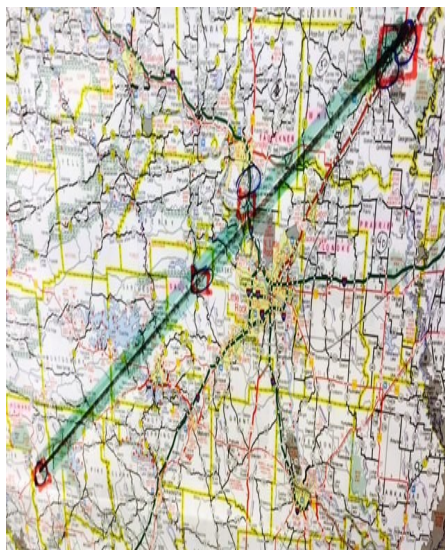
Heritage Society to have them, so they shared them with us. Steve Perdue, president of the Saline County History & Heritage Society thanked the men for their donation and appreciation of Saline County history.

We hope to soon have them available at the research center where people can view them.

July 16 program on the Paron Tornado of 1952



Mrs. Dewana Williams Butler tells about the destruction of the tornado.



Path of the tornado that ended in Judsonia, Arkansas in 1952.



Jesus Name Pentecostal Church after the tornado.

Bennett, New Hope, and Social Hill communities subject of August Program

First Vice President Shirley Parsons Coppock presented the August 20 program on the Bennett, New Hope, and Social Hill communities of Benton.

Mrs. Coppock told about the Bennett pottery and other business in the area. She also went into detail about the Bennett school, and many former members of that school attended the program.

Also covered in her presentation were histories of the New Hope Methodist Church and Social Hill Baptist Church.

The presentation was highlighted by photographs of the Dewitt Bennett home and the Bennett pottery that was also called Benton Brick and Pottery Company.

First hand accounts of early settlers were also shared with the group in the presentation.

Family names of early settlers were also mentioned.



Shirley Coppock reads a first hand account of an early resident of the area.



Scrapbooks of memories of the area were on display at the meeting.



A photo of early Bennett pottery.

Saline County History & Heritage Society to have End of Year Dinner Meeting November 19th

On Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 pm the Saline County History & Heritage Society will have its annual end-of-year dinner meeting at the Western Sizzlin on Military Road in Benton. We will have the back private dining room. We have no meeting it is just a time we can get together and eat a meal. Everybody pays for their own meal and we visit after the meal; please plan on coming to our dinner meeting.

All members and prospective members are invited. We do not have a December meeting due to the holidays. Our next meeting will be the third Thursday in January 2016.



Photos from This Year



Large Crowds in 2015



2015 Walking Tour



Interesting Programs



Civil War Marker Erected

Palace Theater receives additional Time

The Benton City Council's community service committee approved a motion to allow six months for the acceptance of restoration and or demolition proposals while the Palace Theater building undergoes an in-depth engineering study that will deter-

the cost of demolition and/or stabilizing the building for another entity.

A resolution will be presented at the next scheduled council meeting on September 24.

We hope the efforts succeed.



Kroger Customers can Sign Up to help Saline County History & Heritage Society

At the suggestion of SCHHS board member Regina Burks, members of Saline County History & Heritage Society may participate in a program where Kroger will make a donation to non-profits when the person has given permission for their Kroger card to be so designated. George Akins, SCHHS treasurer, said that the society received its first check for \$61.00 in September. If you as a member of SCHHS would

like to participate, please check with Kroger the next time you are in the store or you may go online to learn more about the program. This is a great way that SCHHS can earn needed funds from Kroger every time you go to the grocery store.

You may enroll by calling 1-800-488-4438 or on the web at www.krogercommunityrewards.com.



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The Archives of the Saline County History & Heritage Society contains Saline County probate records, obituaries, early Saline County photos, index to Saline County Marriage Records. We have in our library rare Arkansas histories, and books from other counties of Arkansas. We have Saline County civil war records and back issues of the Benton courier. We have a vertical file of information on Saline County history. So come to the Archives and Family History research room on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am to 2pm.

Scenes of Saline County, Arkansas

This section of the newsletter will feature photos of places and families in Saline County, Arkansas.



Dewitt Bennett home was located just off of Highway 35 where Bennett Road is today. Photo courtesy Maurice Bennett.

Calendar of History and Genealogy Related Events

October 2 and 3rd at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock, the Arkansas Genealogical Society will present its Fall Conference with speaker Paula Stewart Warren go to <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/seminar/default.html> to register.

October 8-(Thursday 7:00 pm) Bryant Historical Society will present Bryant Memories at the Boswell Library in Bryant.

October 15- (Thursday

7:00 pm) "Benton Athletic Memorial Museum" presented by Donnie Burks

October 22- (Tuesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am) "Beginning Genealogy" will be presented at Boswell library in Bryant. You must call the library to register or register online.

October 26- (Monday 6:30 pm) "Riding the Orphan Train" will be presented at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton

November 9- (Monday 6:30 pm) Dr. Nancy Hendricks will present the program **"David O. Dodd"** at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton.

November 19-(Thursday 6:00 pm) SCHHS end of year dinner meeting at Western Sizzlin. Ya'll Come.

December 10- Thursday 5:00 to 8:00 pm Tim Ernst Arkansas Nature Photographer at Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton.