



Volume 2 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society

Summer 2016

Special points of

Interest:

- Saline County History & Heritage celebrates its 30th anniversary.
- History of Ralph Bunche community presented.
- Volunteers backbone of SCHHS.
- April and July programs
- First Baptist Benton celebrates 180th anniversary.



Inside this issue:

SCHHS celebrates 30th	1
Featured volunteer	2
Rushing to discuss preservation efforts.	2
B-17 Memorial program to be rescheduled	2
Mark Christ presents program	3
Scenes of Saline	4
First Baptist celebrates 1980th Anniversary	4

Saline County History & Heritage Society celebrates 30 year anniversary on Sunday, April 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Back on the 7th of February 1986, a group of people interested in the history and heritage of Saline County met at the Benton State Bank Community Room in Benton and voted to organize the Saline County History & Heritage Society. Anthony Rushing was elected president, Larry Cook was elected vice-president, and Carolyn Billingsley was elected secretary-treasurer. Committees were formed, and chairpersons of the committees were selected: Genealogy and Family History Committee, Russell Baker; Archives Committee, Gen O'Neal; Artifacts and Historic Sites, Jeff Cook and Anthony Rushing; Publication Committee, Carolyn Billingsley; and Member-

ship and Publicity Committee, Harold Dean Pelton and Juanita Pelton.

Thus began the Saline County History and Heritage Society. There were 33 charter members.

We would like to invite everyone to come by the Archives and Research Center at 123 North Market street to help us celebrate thirty years of preserving the history of our beloved Saline County, Arkansas.

The date will be Sunday afternoon, April 17 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Our society has come a long way since that February day in 1986.

We have had many dedi-

cated members who have helped our society along its journey.



February program featured Mrs. Geneva Ailsworth, President of the Ralph Bunche Community Organization.

Mrs. Geneva Ailsworth presented the history of the Ralph Bunche Community for our February black history month program. Mrs. Ailsworth told about the churches and

the schools of the area. She also mentioned families who had been in the community for many years. A large group attended the program.



Society Volunteer Spotlight

The Saline County History & Heritage Society has many wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to help the society. One of these is a man who has become quite active in helping people with their civil war ancestors. Robert Edwards of Benton has worked very hard on organizing Saline County civil war veterans. Robert is active in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and serves as a state officer in the group. Robert has also helped to bind many of the societies books over the years, he has organized the county maps that the society owns, he has also worked on the preservation of the societies photo collection. Robert serves on the board of the Saline County History & Heritage Society and volunteers on Thursday at the

family history research room. Robert and his wife JoAnn are originally from Louisiana, but have lived in Saline County for many years. Robert is retired from the FFA. We appreciate your contributions to the Saline County History & Heritage Society.

If you would like to volunteer to work on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, let us know by calling the archives and research center at 778-3770. You can help by filling records, preserving records, or anything else our librarian, Pauline Brown suggests.



Robert Edwards standing by the map case in the upstairs area of the Archives and family history research room.

Save the Rowland/Nelson/Smith/Lenz House

Anthony Rushing with the Save the Rowland/Nelson/Smith/Lenz House preservation group will be the speaker for the Saline County History & Heritage Society on Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm at the Archives and Family History Research Center.

The group was formed in early January and is now raising funds to preserve the house. This is one of the oldest structures in Saline County and is located on the old Military Road, one of the oldest roads in the nation. Make plans now to attend this meeting.



The William and Alwina Lenz Home on Highway 5 is now owned by Oscar Lenz.

When the house was in good condition

May program to feature the B-17 Memorial on Hwy. 35 in Grant County.

Shirley Coppock, 1st vice president of the SCHHS, announced that the program originally scheduled for January will be rescheduled for May 19th at 7:00 pm.

A dedication was held of the park back in October of 2015.

A video will be shown of the park and the history of the B-17 that crashed during WWII and the man who organized the event and

helped build the memorial will also be present to talk about the memorial.

If you have not been there it is worth the trip down Hwy. 35 toward Sheridan and turn left at the sign of Corinth Missionary Baptist Church.

The program will begin at 7:00 pm at the society's meeting room at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton.



Mark Christ Outreach Director of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Department presents March program

Our March program featured Mark Christ, outreach director of the Arkansas Historic Preservation program. Mark is the author or co-editor of ten books on the Civil War in Arkansas. He was President of the Arkansas Humanities Council and served on the board of the Arkansas History Commission. He also was in charge of the civil war markers being placed in nearly all of the seventy five counties of Arkansas. He helped SCHHS secure the Civil War in Saline County marker on the Saline County courthouse lawn.

His presentation was on the Camden expedition and the units that were involved. He quoted primary sources to back up his comments. He told of how Union General Frederick Steele, realized he was not going to be successful and abandoned his plan of defeating the Confederates in south Arkansas.

He also listed casualties from the official records of the war. Many atrocities were committed on both sides during the battles. Some of the battles he talked about were Prairie D Ann, Poison Springs, Marks Mill, and Jenkins Ferry.

He showed photos of the battles and commanders both Confederate and Union.

He also told of Camden lawyer, John Brown who kept a diary of the occupation of Camden, Arkansas and all that went on during the days the city was under Union control.

A large crowd attended the presentation and several questions were asked about the expedition after the presentation.

We appreciate Mr. Christ presenting the program for us.



Mark Christ



Mark Christ talks to SCHHS

Papers of Samuel Adams Governor of Arkansas



Our society has many records in our files. Some of everyday common people and some of very important people.

When I began researching Major General James Fagan, C.S.A. I found the his stepfather, Samuel Adams had lived in Saline County, Arkansas.

Samuel Adams originally from Johnson county, Arkansas where he had served as a state representative and later State Treasurer and for a brief few months served as the Governor of Arkansas during the absence of Archibald Yell during the Mexican War, owned a plantation in Saline County, Arkansas.

Adams a widower had married Catherine (Kitty) Fagan after her husband died and they moved to Saline County where he operated a farm. He died in 1849 and his probate file is one of the important files in our records.

So you never know what you will find when researching.

SALINE COUNTY HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

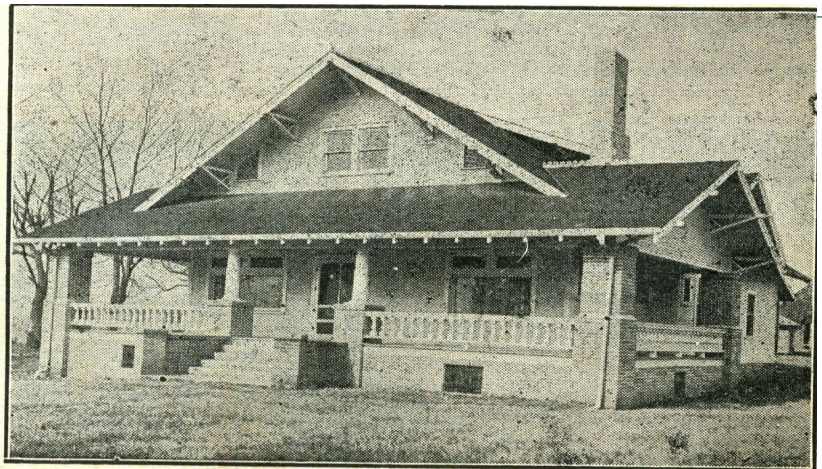
P.O. Box 1712
Benton, AR. 72018

Research Room
123 North Market Street

Phone: (501) 778-3770
Website: www.schhs.us



Scenes of Saline County, Arkansas



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. E. A. PARKER

This is what is known as the Earnest Parker house located on River Street in Benton. Mr. Parker operated a stave mill in Benton and became very successful. The house has survived and is a private residence. This photo appeared in the Centennial Courier of Benton in 1937.

Program schedule announced through July 2016

First Vice President and program chairman Shirley Coppock has announced that the following programs will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 pm at the SCHHS Archives and family research center located at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton.

April 21– Anthony Rushing discussing the movement to save the Rowland, Smith, Lenz house.

May 19th– Mr. Nelson Mears of Sheridan will speak about the B-17 memo-

rial and veterans memorial located off Hwy 35 in Grant County.

June 16th– A program about the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church at Avilla.

July 21st– Mr. Lib Carlisle of Benton will speak about Saline County politics.

Make plans to attend these future meetings as we move into the summer months.

Benton First Baptist Church celebrated its 180th anniversary on Sunday April 10th. The church was organized on April 2, 1836 in the home of David Dodd on Military Road.



BAPTIST CHURCH, BENTON