



Volume 3 Number 4

Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society

Winter 2017

Special points of

Interest:

- Saline County History & Heritage year end meeting
- New officers for 2018
- Shaped Note Singing
- Gann Museum offers World War I exhibit
- Arkansas Genealogy Society Fall Seminar Oct. 20-21 at Benton Event Center.



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Saline County History & Heritage Society will hold is annual end of year meeting on Thursday, November 16, at 6:00 pm in the large meeting room at Western Sizzlin in Benton.

Make plans now to attend SCHHS end of year meeting on Thursday, November 16, at 6:00 pm at Western Sizzlin on Military in Benton.

Last year we had over twenty five and hope to have a new record this year.

We will recognize our new officers and other members.

We always have a good time of fellowship and visitation.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, Thursday, November 16th.



2018 Officer Slate to be voted on at the October Meeting

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following for the 2018 officers of the Saline County History & Heritage Society: President- Wilson DuVall; 1st Vice President- Shirley Parsons Coppock; 2nd Vice President-Steve Perdue; Secretary-Betty Walker; Treas-

urer- George Akins; Board Members: Robert Edwards for a three year term; Marlo Bush Krueger two year term; Linda Everett-one year term. Editor of the Saline-Virginia White. Librarian -Pauline Brown, Assistant Librarian-Carolyn Wise; Webmaster-Eddie

Landreth- Editorial Committee- Virginia White Cindy Grisham and Steve Perdue .Budget Committee-George Akins, Wilson DuVall, and David Pyle. Nominating Committee- Pam Ray, Kathy Lewallen, and Wilson Duvall. Newsletter Editor- Steve Perdue.

October Program will feature the Shaped Notes commonly used at Tull Old Folks Singing in Grant County

2nd Vice President, Wilson and Virginia DuVall are working on a program for our October meeting on October 19th at 7:00 pm. Wilson DuVall serves as the President of the Tull Old Folks Singing which has been around for over a hundred years. In the annual Old Folks Singing, the members sing a style that was common in the early days of gospel singing. The Christian Harmony songbooks are used in the morning and have been used since 1885 when the singing began.

Tull is on the Saline and Grant county line, however the children in Tull attend the Bauxite school district in Saline County.

The Old Folks Singing takes place at the Ebenezer Methodist Church in Tull each year in May.

The singing of the notes first and then the words is believed to have come from Ireland and was an easy way to learn how to sing unfamiliar songs.

We hope you will mark your calendars to attend this program on the third Thursday of October at the Archives and Family History Research Center at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton.

We know you will enjoy it.



Tull Old Folks Singing 1913

David Hughes tells of his days at Saline County Newspapers



David Hughes gave a great program in August on his years with the Saline County News and the Benton Courier. He told about some of the people who played a role in his early years with the newspapers. He mentioned Ron Meyer, Shirley Coppock, the Johnson family, and others. It was an interesting program which told how important newspapers were in our county's history. David also passed out samples of Ron Meyer political cartoons which mentioned county politicians and people of the county. He told that Ron Meyer was a interesting editor of the Courier.

David also mentioned how he would often beat the police to an accident or event. He would listen on the police scanner to know what was going on in the county. We had almost 40 in attendance at the program.

Gann Museum continues its outstanding exhibit on World War I Make plans to visit.



The Gann Museum has opened its exhibit on World War I in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into the war.

The museum is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The exhibit contains what the average soldier would have on the battlefield from a mess kit to razors, to a bible, to walkie talkies, to knives, to Enfield rifles. Also included are what a nurse would wear in the war, what a German aviator would wear, different types of gas masks, for man and horse, also many examples of headgear.

Tom Dillard says luck is important in collecting History

Tom Dillard, retired head of the University of Arkansas special collections spoke in September on collecting history. Dillard has previously served as head of special collections as UCA Torreyson library and as Director of the Butler Center at the Central Arkansas Public Library. Mr. Dillard also was the founder of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas. When introduced by Steve Perdue, President of the Saline County History & Heritage Society, Perdue introduced him as "Mr. Arkansas History".

He also writes a weekly column on Arkansas history in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

He has also written several books

his latest is "Statesmen, Scoundrels, and Eccentrics: A Gallery of Amazing Arkansans" published by the University of Arkansas Press.

He told of one example of when a lifelong employee of the Arkansas Highway Department passed away. He called to check on the man's papers. He waited for an appropriate time and when he found out they were already clearing out his papers, he said he would be there despite a snow storm. When he arrived they had already thrown out a large portion of the man's collection. He saw big snow clumps in the snow and when he investigated he saw they were trash bags and inside were photos of early bridges and roads across Arkansas. We had a large

crowd over forty people for the program. Everyone in attendance enjoyed his stories and comments.



Tom Dillard

Bryant Celebrates its 125 Birthday at Fall-Fest with Cake and History

Bryant, Arkansas was incorporated in 1892. It was important as a railroad stop on the St. Louis and Iron Mountain railroad. In honor of that event, the Bryant Historical Society planned a birthday celebration to coincide with the 30th annual Fall Fest at Bishop Park. Kathy Lewallen, Patsy Kuhn, Sissy Farchman, and Steve Perdue of the Bryant Historical society served cake to thousands of visitors at the festival. Different

stores including Kroger, Harps, Edwards Food Giant, and Every Cake provided cakes for the visitors.

It was a great time had by all and the Mayor Jill Dabbs also stopped by the booth to sample the cake.

It was a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon and people were saying as they ate the cake, "Happy Birthday Bryant".



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



Steve Perdue is Editor of the Salt Shaker

Arkansas Genealogical Society holds Fall Conference at Benton Event Center on Friday October 20th and Saturday October 21st

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will be holding its annual fall conference right here in Benton on Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st. The event will take place at the Benton Event Center, 17322 I-30. The Friday night speaker will be Dr. Daniel Littlefield. Dr. Littlefield is an authority on Indian ancestry. The Saturday night speaker will be Josh Taylor, Nationally known Genealogy speaker and star of the PBS

program Genealogy Roadshow and also has appeared on the television series Who Do You Think You Are?

The schedule for the program will be Friday: 5:00 pm Registration—Vendors open; 6:00 pm To Be or Wannebe? That is the Question; 7:00 pm There is More to Search than the Dawes Rolls. Saturday-8:00 am Registration; 9:00 am Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States. 10:00 Break 10:30am

Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies 11:30 am Lunch 1:00pm AGS Annual Meeting 1:30 pm The Web, the World and You! (Advanced Internet Researching) 2:30 Break; 3:00 pm New Tools and Ideas in Research.

You may find more information on how to register and costs at agsgenealogy.org.

This is a great opportunity to hear a nationally known genealogist and an expert on Native American research right here in our own backyard.

Scenes of Saline County, Arkansas



One of the earliest photos of downtown Benton shows the Benton Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1858.