



# The Salt Shaker

Award Winning Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society

Volume 4 Number 2

Summer 2018

*Special points of Interest:*

- April program Clyde McCauley
- New Arkansas Historian
- May Arkansas Heritage Month: Saline County Bridges
- Saline County WWI Memorial Tree planted in Bryant
- June program with Lynn Moore and the River Bridge



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## April, May, and June Programs include Memories, Bridges, and Trails

We have several different programs for the next three months.

Our April program will be Mr. Clyde McCauley. He has written a book of his memories of Benton called "On Shady Grove Road". The program will be held on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm.

Our May program is an Arkansas Heritage Month Event. It will be held on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 pm. The title of that program is "Saline County Bridges".

Our June program will be held on Thursday, June 21st at 7:00 pm. It will be about the bike trail that will be following the route of the old Southwest Trail through Saline County.

Make plans to attend all of these interesting programs.

Saline County History and Heritage Society has recently received all of the genealogical books of the late Dr. Carolyn Earle Billingsley from her estate. There are books on many states in the vast collection. One interesting collection contains all of the over 100 volumes of the Alabama Records. If you have early Alabama ancestors these books are the place to look for your ancestors.

SCHHS is also participating in the dedication of the World War I memorial tree to be planted on Friday, April 6 in front of

the Center in Bishop Park in Bryant. The ceremony will take place at 4:00 pm at the center. Saline County Judge Jeff Arey will give the dedicatory speech.

Saline County History & Heritage also endorsed the efforts of the Camden Expedition Scenic By-way Trail which will go through Saline County retracing the route of Union General Frederick Steele on his Red River expedition in 1864. A bill will be introduced in the 2019 meeting of the General Assembly to make this trail a reality. We need to encourage all of our legislators to support this bill. It will help with Civil War tourism in our state.

### Dr. Lisa Speer, Arkansas State Historian and director of the Arkansas State Archives resigns.

Dr. Lisa Speer a Glen Rose native, recently resigned as Director of the Arkansas State Archives due to policy differences with Stacy Hurst, Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. A

Friends group of the Arkansas State Archives headed by President Susan Boyle held a meeting in Little Rock on Saturday March 24 to express concern about the future of the state archives.

Many concerns were eased when, it was announced that former director Dr. Wendy Richter and friend to SCHHS would become the new state historian and director of the state archives in May.

# World War I Memorial Tree Planting

The Saline County History & Heritage Society will be one of the groups who will participate in the planting of the Saline County World War I Memorial Tree on Friday, April 6 at Bryant. The tree will be planted in front of the Bishop Center in Bryant along with the Bryant Parks and Recreation Department, the Bryant Historical Society, and other historical and veterans organizations in the county. County Judge Jeff Arey will be the dedicatory speaker. The tree is one of seventy five trees to be planted in all of Arkansas counties to commemorate the sacrifice of soldiers who participated in World War I.

A bench will also be dedicated which was donated by the Bryant

Historical Society and First Security Bank.

Oscar Miller a former Bryant resident who received the Congressional Medal of Honor will also be honored for his service during World War I.

All members are encouraged to attend the planting and dedication of the tree at the Bishop Center.

The tree which is a willow oak, is being donated by the Arkansas State Forestry Commission.

The World War I Tree planting is also a project of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

The event will take place a 4 pm on

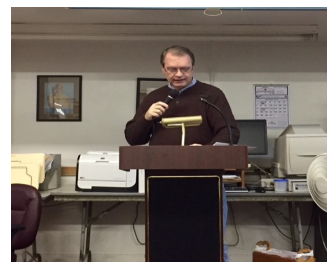
Friday, April 6th.



WWI Private Roy Evans of Bryant

## SCHHS Members Remember Dr. Carolyn Earle Billingsley and Virginia White

SCHHS members Mary Deere and Eddie Landreth paid tribute to two of our deceased members, Dr. Carolyn Earle Billingsley and Virginia White at our January program. Each recalled how these members contributed to our society over the past thirty years. Mary was a good friend to Virginia White and Eddie was a good friend to Carolyn.



## Some of the photos of Saline County Barns presented March 15 at SCHHS

The March 15th program was filled with many photos of Saline County Barns presented by Katrina Johnson, Steve Perdue, and Shirley Coppock. So many that the bridges we were supposed to show got moved to May. Here are a few of the close to 75 barns that were shown.

We hope you will attend the May program on May 17 to see the program on Saline County Bridges.



Will Green Barn Sardis by G. English



Prange Barn Avilla by S. Perdue

## Maine Resident Clyde McCulley to present his boyhood memories of Benton, Arkansas on Thursday, April 19 at SCHHS

Clyde McCulley lives in the beautiful town of Portland, Maine, but his memories are many times on growing up in Benton, Arkansas.

He has written a book called "The Boy on Shady Grove Road". It is a childhood memory of growing up in the 1940's and 50's in the South.

He will be in Benton in April to sign copies of his book. He will have a signing at the Gann Museum.

He will also be signing copies of his book at the Saline County History & Heritage Society on Thursday April 19 after speaking for our monthly society meeting at 7:00 pm.

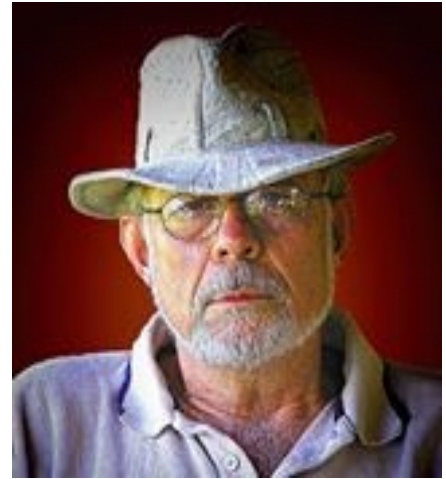
Clyde received a doctorate in Higher Education and Administration. After working as a professor of art at several private colleges, McCulley served 20 years as the director of the School of Art at Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute. He is

now retired and plans to write more books.

He has a new book coming out very soon.

In his book "The Boy on Shady Grove Road" he tells about things that only those of us who grew up in the fifties and sixties remember about good ole Saline County, Arkansas.

Clyde has a unique way with telling his memories of growing up on what is now Longhills. He mentions many people who you will recognize in his book and many memories you will identify with. Plan to attend this interesting program.



Clyde McCulley

## June program to be about the Old River Bridge

On Thursday June 21, a program about the updates and progress on the restoration of the Old River Bridge in Benton. Recently it was announced that a \$500,000 dollar grant would allow work to begin restoring the second oldest bridge still standing in Arkansas, which crosses the Saline River in Benton. It's hoped it will eventually be part of an extensive cycling and pedestrian trail between Little Rock and Hot Springs.

Built in 1891, the Old River Bridge today is little more than a rusted frame.

U.S. Representative French Hill joined the county judges from Saline and Garland counties and the director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department to tour the area recently.

The grant will cover the first steps to make the bridge usable.

Hopefully this will be the beginning of the dream to

have a trail. The trail plan includes acquiring the right of way of unused railroad tracks once operated by the Rock Island and Missouri Pacific. In recent years abandoned rail lines have been converted into trails elsewhere in the country, which are ideal because of gradual curves and inclines.

The program will be at 7:00 pm at the Saline County History & Heritage Archives and Research Center located at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton.

Lynn Moore, former Mayor of Benton, and leader in the Saline Crossing Group will be the speaker.

Make plans to attend.

# SALINE COUNTY HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

## Scenes of Saline County, Arkansas

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Steve Perdue Editor of the Salt Shaker



IMP Theater c. 1925

Saline County History & Heritage Society photo

### Indexing of Saline County Crop Mortgages will be useful tool in genealogy research.

George Akins who has done a wonderful job on Saline County marriages is also working along with Pauline Brown and Carolyn Wise to index Saline County crop mortgages. Many early farmers had to mortgage their crops in order to pay bills and this resource will be of help for family research if your family was farming in early Saline County, Arkansas



### Renew your membership for 2018

Membership in the Saline County History & Heritage Society is on a calendar year basis. So in January your 2018 dues are up for renewal. Our organization is a non-profit 501C3 organization and your membership and any donation is tax deductible. You receive *the Saline* two times a year and you receive *the Salt Shaker* our newsletter four times a year. Also a program on a historical or genealogical topics are presented each month except November. I hope you will renew your membership to our society and help us preserve Saline County history.