



# The Salt Shaker

Award Winning Newsletter of the Saline County History & Heritage Society

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Spring 2018

## Special points of Interest:

- SCHHS begins 32nd year
- Memorial program for two of our faithful members
- Faithful to Our Tasks: Arkansas Women in the Great War.
- Barns and Bridges of Saline County
- Member Spotlight



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## SCHHS begins its 32nd Year. Please renew your membership if you have not already done so.

As we begin our 32nd-year, now is the time to send in your membership renewals for 2018. We have many new programs we are planning to offer on the third Thursday of each month except November and December.

Our first program for 2018 will be on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm with a program in honor of our former Editor and long time Secretary of the society, Virginia White who passed in November of 2017 and one of the founders of our society, author and historian Carolyn Earle Billingsley. It was Carolyn who had the idea of starting our society. Carolyn passed this month.

Mary Deere SCHHS

member and former State Regent of the DAR will speak of her memories of Virginia and Eddie Landreth SCHHS member and former Treasurer and Editor of the Saline will speak of his memories of Carolyn.

The officers for 2018 are Wilson DuVall as President, Shirley Coppock, 1st Vice President, Steve Perdue 2nd Vice President, Betty Walker, secretary, George Akins, Treasurer, Board Members Marlo Bush Krueger 2year term, Linda Everett 1 year term, and Robert Edwards 3 year term. Editor of the Saline, Cindy Grisham, Librarian Pauline Brown..

Please send in your memberships for 2018. The memberships are the lifeblood of our society and this helps us to pay our utilities and put out our award winning journal, The Saline.

We had several business memberships in 2017 and we hope that if you have a business or associated with a Saline County business you will encourage them to join our society.

We appreciate your membership and support of our society each year and hope you will continue to support the preservation of Saline County history.

**Please RENEW TODAY!**

## World War I Memorial Trees Being Planted In Each County.

The Saline County History & Heritage Society is considering planting a World War I Memorial tree in Saline County. The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commission is trying to get a WWI

Memorial Tree planted in each county. Dr. Lisa Speer, Arkansas state historian, and Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation are members of the World War I Centennial Com

mission. The Arkansas Forestry Commission provides an oak for the planting. We hope to move forward with this planting soon in the new year.

## 2018 begins with the loss of two of our outstanding Members

The Saline County History & Heritage Society was formed in 1986 with several people who had a desire to save the history of Saline County, Arkansas. One of those founding members was Carolyn Earle Billingsley. Carolyn began researching her family and saw that the Saline County, Arkansas records were in bad condition and that there was virtually nothing in print on Saline County, Arkansas. She and her dear friend Gen O'Neal and others decided to organize a historical society in Saline County. They elected officers and Carolyn became the editor of the new publication the SALINE. Carolyn worked tirelessly to get the organization going. She was a historian and after her children were raised she began work on

degrees at UALR and eventually earned a PHD from Rice University. She began to speak at Genealogical conferences all over the U.S. and also became a speaker at Sanford University in Alabama. She had many friends in the history and genealogical communities and she will be missed.

Virginia White worked in our society and the community for many years. She served as the secretary of our society for over 10 years and as Editor of the SALINE for one year. Virginia also served on the board of the Gann Museum and was regent of the Provincia de La Salle chapter of the Benton Daughters of the American Revolution. She served our society with a smile.



Dr. Carolyn Billingsley



Virginia White

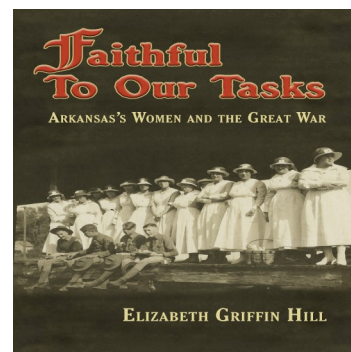
## February program will be Author Elizabeth Hill

Elizabeth Griffin Hill is an Arkansas author and has recently written the book *"Faithful to Our Tasks": Arkansas's Women and the Great War*.

She is an independent researcher and writer specializing in the history of Arkansas women and holds a Master of Arts degree in rhetoric and writing. She is also the author of *A Splendid Piece of Work, a history of Arkansas's home demonstrations*

and *Extension Homemakers clubs*. Hill also contributed to an anthology that explored the effects of WWI on the state of Arkansas.

The program will be Thursday February 15th, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Archives and Family History Research Center located at 123 North Market Street in downtown Benton. Make plans now to attend.



## March 15th program will be Barns and Bridges of Saline County, Arkansas

The March 15th program will be on Saline County Barns and Bridges. Old Barns and bridges are disappearing all over Saline County and Arkansas. Because of the decline in farming in a rapidly urbanizing county like Saline it is almost a rarity to see any barns or old bridges.

This program will be to try and highlight some of the interesting barns that are still left in the county and also to show some of

old photos of barns and bridges that have been torn down over the years. If you have any photos of old barns or bridges in Saline County, Arkansas, please share them with SCHHS so that they may be included in the program on Thursday, March 15th.

This should be an interesting presentation and we think you will enjoy it. Circle the date on your calendar and bring a friend to the meeting.



Old Saline River Bridge 2016



## Meet Our New Editor of the Saline: Cindy Grisham

We have a new editor of The SALINE for 2018. Her name is Cindy Grisham. She is not new to history in fact she loves history, like so many of us.

Cindy is originally from West Plains, Missouri and now lives in Benton with her husband. She has degrees from Missouri State University and Arkansas State University and a doctorate from Arkansas State University in heritage studies.

She has authored books on the history of Tyronza, Arkansas it is called *When Hope Grows Weary: Tyronza, Arkansas* and *A Savory History of Arkansas Delta Food: Potlikker, Coon Suppers & Chocolate Gravy (American Palate)* and other books as well.

Cindy is a former police officer who grew tired of police work and found her dream job working in a museum

in northeast Arkansas.

She is currently an administrative assistant to the Arkansas State Supreme Court in Little Rock.

We are so fortunate to have her serve as editor of the 2018 Saline.

She is always on the lookout for interesting stories about Saline County, Arkansas so if you have a story you would like see in the Saline, send it to her for publication.

We look forward to the SALINE in April and welcome to SCHHS Cindy.



Dr. Cindy Grisham

## Spotlight on SCHHS Volunteers

At our end of year meeting on November 16, 2017, President Steve Perdue presented four certificates of appreciation to three charter members and one long time member of SCHHS. Those presented with certificates were Tom Blackburn, Gail Blackburn, Shirley Coppock, and the late Virginia White. We had twenty five of our members attend the end of year meeting which was held at the Benton Western Sizzlin restaurant on Military Road.

Tom Blackburn has served as President and Vice-President of our society and on the board of SCHHS for many years. He is always available to help with projects and is a charter member. Gail Blackburn has served as Secretary and Treasurer and Vice President of SCHHS and also on the board. She is a charter member. Shirley Coppock has served on the board and as 1st Vice President and program chairman for many years. The last Virginia White served as Secretary for over ten years and was serving as Editor of the Saline upon her death.

We are grateful to all our volunteers who keep our society moving forward.



Top Tom Blackburn, Gail Blackburn, and Virginia White. Shirley Coppock was unable to attend the meeting, but Wilson Duvall accepted the award for her.

# **SALINE COUNTY HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY**

## **Scenes of Saline County, Arkansas**

P.O. Box 1712  
Benton, AR. 72018

Research Room  
123 North Market Street

Phone: (501) 778-3770  
Website: [www.schhs.us](http://www.schhs.us)

Steve Perdue Editor of the Salt Shaker



Benton Courier Office c. 1911

Saline County History & Heritage Society photo

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### **New Saline County Marriage Book Now Available**

George Akins who has done a wonderful job completing Saline County Marriage Books for the society has just finished his newest book. This marriage book covers the years 1939—1941 and covers the books number 5, 6, 7, and 8. If you had a relative from Saline County who married in Saline County during those years this would be a great asset in your genealogy research.

There are only 7 books available of this series and it has 169 pages and the cost is \$23.00 each. You may purchase it from our society anytime.



### **Renew your membership for 2018**

Membership in the Saline County History & Heritage Society is on a calendar year basis. So in January your 2017 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 topic are presented each month except November. I hope you will renew your membership to our society and help us preserve Saline County history.