

BRICKWALL GAZETTE

Genealogy Society Of Craighead County, Arkansas

This month's meeting is
February 15, 2026

Editor: Nancy Matthews

VOLUME NUMBER THIRTY, ISSUE NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 2026

MEETING HAPPENINGS:

January Meeting

Our January Meeting was held on January 18, 2026 in Meeting Room at the First Community Bank Meeting Room, 630 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR.

At that time we had Year-End Reports followed by Elections for 2026/2027.

Election Results:

President – Irene Goble

Vice President – Open

Recording Secretary – Kathy Simpson &
Gail Lies

Corresponding Secretary – Susie Grommet

Historian – Jan Beasley

Treasurer – Candy Ellis

Publicity – Elizabeth Stokes

Membership Director -- Debbie Powers

Publications/Newsletters – Nancy Matthews

Member-At-Large: Laura Rooks

Member-At-Large: Luci Murray

Member-At-Large: Kathy Williams

Honorary: Lynn Dowdy & Deanna Ketcher

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Board Meeting for February was held on February 7, 2026 in the Community Room at the Hilltop (910 Chancery Lane) location of First Community Bank.

1. Possible Programs in the Future
2. Beginning Genealogy Class
3. The next scheduled board meeting will be March 7, 2026.



Genealogy Society of Craighead County Arkansas

Community Room at First Community Bank -
630 Southwest Drive

February 15, 2026 ~ Time: 2: 00 - 3:30

Speaker: Natalie Moon

Program: Cemetery Restoration

Beginning Genealogy

Do you need help getting started? Do you know someone who does? Do you just need an idea on where to look next? Are you interested in a “refresher”? Take a day and join us.

Saturday, February 21, 2026 Part I 10:00—12:00

LUNCH 12:00—2:00

Saturday, February 21, 2026 Part II 2:00—4:00

Community Room at First Community Bank – 630 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, Arkansas

2-part class—Free
Optional Book \$10.00

Contact: Nancy Matthews
to reserve a seat or a book
nmatthews@suddenlink.net
gscga@suddenlink.net
870-219-0535

For those attending for a “Refresher,” your book, published in 2023, is the latest edition. Bring it with you. As always, bring your questions.

GSCCA Board ~ 2026 - 2027

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<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

March 5 – 7, 2025

Remember to register for RootsTech. You can watch many of the programs live. The recorded versions any time you wish. You can also go back and watch recorded programs from previous years.

If you don't know about RootsTech, log into your FamilySearch account and the “Learn More” button that is on the RootsTech Logo. You can learn about the new things happening at Ancestry, FamilySearch or MyHeritage. The pre-recorded sessions can be from 10 minutes to an hour. There are a few live sessions that are not recorded so you need to watch them when they are presented.



Missouri State Archives: Do you have family in Missouri? Have you found their death certificate? The Missouri State Archives has now added the 1975 Death Certificated to the online database.

Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1975

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesmvc/deathcertificates#searchDB>

Now that the Death Certificates have been added they are shifting back to the ongoing projects. If you are interested in helping follow instructions below.

- **County Tax Lists** – These are early tax lists from Missouri counties, some dating back to the early 1820s. Once indexed, these tax lists will be added to our Census Records and Tax Lists database. To get started, go to <https://fromthepage.com> and select Sign Up to Transcribe. Once you have created an account you can login and find our projects at <https://fromthepage.com/missouristatearchives/>.
- **St. Louis Registers of Death** – This project consists of reviewing an index provided by the St. Louis Genealogical Society, and adding fields that weren't originally included (like gender, race, and cause of death). When finished, the index entries will be added to our Pre-1910 Birth & Death Records database. This project is conducted over email, where volunteers will receive a batch of images and a spreadsheet with the corresponding index to review and enter additional information. Once completed, the spreadsheet will be returned to me via email and a new batch of images can be requested.



Tips for Researching a New Ancestor from Amy Johnson Crow February 5, 2026

When you start researching a new ancestor, it's tempting to jump straight to the most exciting record you can find. Instead, focus on building a strong foundation first. These five record types help create context and point you toward smarter next steps.

1. Census Records 🗄️

Census records place your ancestor in a specific location at a specific time. They help you track movement, household members, occupations, and relationships across decades.

Even when details change, patterns emerge. Who is living nearby? Who disappears? Who suddenly shows up?

2. Vital Records ❤️

Birth, marriage, and death records often provide names of parents and spouses, ages, residences, and key dates. Each type offers different clues, so gathering all three creates a more complete picture.

One record can raise questions. Multiple records help answer them.

3. Military Records 🇺🇸

If your ancestor was of service age, military records are worth checking. Draft registrations, service records, and pension files often include birth information, physical descriptions, family details, and addresses.

They can be useful even when military service was brief. (And in the case of draft registrations, maybe no service involved – he was just of the right age!)

4. Land and Property Records 🏠

Land records are especially helpful for tracking families between census years. They can show when someone arrived in an area, how long they stayed, and how property moved through a family.

They also often reveal neighbors, witnesses, and associates worth researching. (Remember, too, that your ancestor didn't have to own hundreds of acres of land to show up in land records!)

5. Probate Records 📄

Probate records include wills, estates, guardianships, and inventories. These documents can confirm relationships, reveal family structure, and provide insight into an ancestor's life and community.

Even a simple estate file can answer questions that other records cannot.

How Did You Get Started in Genealogy?

Who inspired you? What peaked your interest? What did you want to learn? Or did you get started for an entirely different reason?

by Susie Grommet ...

My mother's brother had done a lot of work on my maternal side, but on my father's side, very little was ever talked about. When my father's health started getting complicated, one comment that it could be hereditary- that got my attention!

by Debbie Powers ...

I got started on a dare from my sister and a cousin. They said once you get started you couldn't let go, well that was 36 years ago. I haven't let go since. My by word is "just a couple of minutes and I will be done".

Please, tell us your "Story." (Send an email to nlmatthews@suddenlink.net.)

Arkansas Genealogical Society
February 2026
Kitchen Roundtable Talk

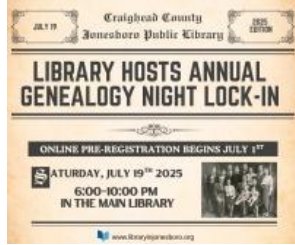


*Russell Baker: Exploring Resources for
Civil War Research*

Our Zoom discussion will be presented on **Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m.**, free of charge.

For those within the Arkansas genealogical community, Russell Baker is a familiar figure. Affectionately known as "The Octogenarian Historian," he has a remarkable 50 years of service on the AGS board and a background as the retired archival supervisor and former acting director of the Arkansas State Archives in Little Rock. He is the author of two of AGS's most popular publications, the Arkansas Township Atlas and Arkansas Post Offices: From Memdag to Norsk, A Historical Directory 1832-1900. Over the years, he has frequently lectured nationally on genealogical research and theory. He is continually working on new publications and is continuing to make meaningful contributions as an esteemed board member.

To register for this free webinar, please use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8125283062?pwd=ZuL28pU7Qma0nljftB2FQ>



17th Summer Lock-In
18 July 2026

Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library

315 W. Oak Ave, Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-935-5133
<http://librarvinjonesboro.org>



TEL: 870-243-8266
AprilNorwood.GlossGenius.com
instagram/facebook: April Singleton Norwood



630 Southwest Drive
Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-932-5600

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to have you.**

Sponsorship Application
www.gscca.net/Sponsorship-2626.pdf

**THE BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES**

www.butlercenter.org/

Craighead County Jonesboro
Public Library

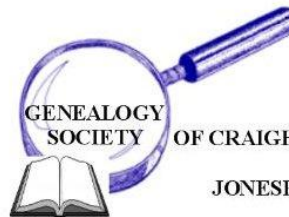
Digital Photos Collection

<http://libraryinjonesboro.contentdm.oclc.org/>



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