

BRICKWALL GAZETTE

Editor: Nancy Matthews

Genealogy Society Of Craighead County, Arkansas

This month's meeting will be held
at the Jonesboro Public Library

November 19, 2017

VOLUME NUMBER TWENTY-ONE, ISSUE NUMBER ELEVEN NOVEMBER 2017

MEETING HAPPENINGS: The October Meeting was held at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library on October 15, 2017. Our speaker was Nan Snider.

Nan presented a great program on Outhouses.

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### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:**

The Executive Board Meeting for November was held on November 11, 2017 in the Civic League at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library

1. 2018 Calendar
2. Beginning Genealogy Class
3. The next scheduled board meeting will be January 13, 2018 at 2:00.

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NOVEMBER MEETING: The November Meeting will be held in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Craighead County Public Library on November 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Jim Largent. Jim will be talking to us about the History of Veterans Day, the Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**BEGINNER'S CLASS:** The next Beginning Genealogy Class is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Craighead

County Jonesboro Public Library from 10:00 to 3:00. There will be a two-hour session with a break for lunch followed by a second two-hour session. Space is limited. Please contact Nancy Matthews – 870-219-0535 or [nlmatthews@suddenlink.net](mailto:nlmatthews@suddenlink.net). This is the first planned Beginner's Class of 2018. It will be the Saturday before the February Lock-In.

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This Month in History

November 8, 1895 - X-rays (electromagnetic rays) were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany.

November 11, 1938 - Irving Berlin's *God Bless America* was first performed. He had written the song especially for radio entertainer Kate Smith who sang it during her regular radio broadcast. It soon became a patriotic favorite of Americans and was one of Smith's most requested songs.

November 22, 1718 - Blackbeard the pirate (Edward Teach) was killed off the coast of North Carolina after a long and prosperous career. Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia had sent two sloops to put an end to him. The sailors encountered Blackbeard and Lt. Robert Maynard killed him in the fight that followed.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY



Fat City Grill
Saturday, December 9, 2016

11:00 - 1:00
Everyone is responsible for their own meal and tip

Ornament Exchange
for those that wish to participate - \$5 limit

Door Prizes

Bring your family and join in the fun.

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## Just in Time for Veterans' Day: Ancestry Hopes to Recover Veterans' Information Despite the Loss of Records in a Fire

[Dick Eastman](#) · [November 7, 2017](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [One Comment](#)

A catastrophic fire in 1973 at the National Personnel Records Center outside St. Louis destroyed 80% of the records of U.S. Army personnel discharged November 1912 to January 1960 and 75% of U.S. Air Force personnel discharged September 1947 to January 1964. None of these records – about 80-100 pages of info per soldier on average – had duplicate copies. Records about the battles these brave soldiers fought in, the ships they sailed on, the medals they received, etc. were lost.

Ancestry hopes to recover those lost accounts. The company launching a special project asking people to interview and share stories from World War II military veterans. Ancestry will take the submitted interviews and turn them into a searchable database to help supplement the lost World War II records for these soldiers and sailors.

Less than 600,000 of the 16 million American veterans who served in WWII are alive today. It's predicted that 50% of remaining WWII Vets will be gone in 3 years and 90% will be gone in 10 years, so the time to preserve their histories is now.

For more information on the project or to contribute a story, please visit:  
<https://www.ancestry.com/veterans>.

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## NEW GENEALOGY BASED TELEVISION PROGRAM

NBC has put in development *Reunited*, a drama inspired by investigative genealogist Pamela Slaton, creator/executive producer Matt Lopez, Epidemic Pictures & Management's Darryl Taja and Universal TV.

Created and written by Lopez, *Reunited* is inspired by Slaton, the country's foremost investigative genealogist, who uses her wits, detective skills and take-no-prisoners attitude to track down long-lost loved ones and reunite broken families.

Slaton, a specialist in reuniting adoptees and lost loved ones, authored with Samantha Marshall the book *Reunited*, a biography on her life and career, published by St. Martin's Press in 2012. She is currently an on-air contributor for ABC's 20/20.

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Arkansas' very first Thanksgiving proclamation

The very first Thanksgiving proclamation issued after Arkansas became a state.

The proclamation issued by Arkansas' third governor, Governor Thomas Drew, set aside Thursday, December 8, 1847, as a day of thanksgiving. The proclamation reads as follows:

Whereas, an all wise and merciful Providence has dispensed blessings of the most bountiful and diversified character among the people of this state, in the abundance of the various agricultural crops, the universal prosperity of our people and their unexampled good health, it is deemed worthy of a grateful people to make public manifestation of their sense of the renewed obligations under which we have been placed, by the appointment of a day of general THANKSGIVING throughout the state.

Be it known, therefore, that I, Thomas S. Drew, Governor of the State of Arkansas, have appointed Thursday, the 9th day of December next as a day of THANKSGIVING, which is hereby proclaimed and recommended to the good of people in every county and town in the state as a fit day and proper time to acquit ourselves, each and every one, of a high and praiseworthy duty to the Bountiful and Merciful Providence.

Given under my hand at Little Rock and to which is affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas, this 12th day of October, 1847, and the Independence of the United States the seventy-second year.

By the Governor,
Thomas S. Drew

FROM: The National Archives

RG 109 Confederate Maps Series Now Digitized and Available Online!

Posted on [October 17, 2017](#) by [Brandi Oswald](#)

Civil War maps are always popular at the National Archives, and the Cartographic Branch is pleased to announce the digitization of over 100 Confederate maps from Record Group (RG) 109. All are now available to view or download through our online catalog.

Maps played a very important role during the Civil War. They were instrumental to leaders and generals for planning battles, campaigns, and marches. As a result, thousands of maps relating to the Civil War were created, many of which are held by the Cartographic Branch in a variety of record groups. These maps can include rough sketches created quickly before or during a battle, but can also include maps that were drawn to accompany official reports or even post-war publications. Many are highly detailed and colorized. Civil War maps frequently show topography, ground cover, roads, railroads, homes, the names of residents, towns, and waterways. They can be very helpful to better understand what the land looked like and how it was used during the Civil War era. Maps showing the names of residents can also be helpful to genealogists.

The Civil War maps we are featuring today are all Confederate maps. These maps were captured by or surrendered to the United States at the conclusion of the Civil War, or were later donated to the National Archives by former Confederate leaders. The maps cover areas in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma (Indian Territory), South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. There is also a grouping of miscellaneous maps that show more than one state, which are filed as "US." Most of the maps are manuscripts, although some are printed maps or even copies of maps. Many of the printed maps are annotated to show troop movements, battles lines, or other important features.

Many of the maps show well known battlefields and locations, such as Shiloh, Antietam, Murfreesboro (Stones River), Richmond, Petersburg, Atlanta, Knoxville, Manassas (Bull Run) and others. A number of maps show the battlefield at Shiloh, which was fought April 2-3, 1862 in southern Tennessee.

Many maps also cover lesser known but also very important locations, such as Corinth, Mississippi, the location of a strategic railroad junction and site of a siege and battle. Other lesser known battles with maps in the series include Cross Keys, VA, Prairie Grove, AR, and scores of others.

The series also includes maps and plans of fortifications, including those that protected Charleston, South Carolina, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Beaufort, South Carolina. Some fort plans are even included, such as a plan for Fort Waul in Texas and Fort Beauregard in South Carolina (SC-3A), although most of the Cartographic Branch's fort plans and drawings can be found within RG 77 in the Fortifications File and Miscellaneous Forts File.

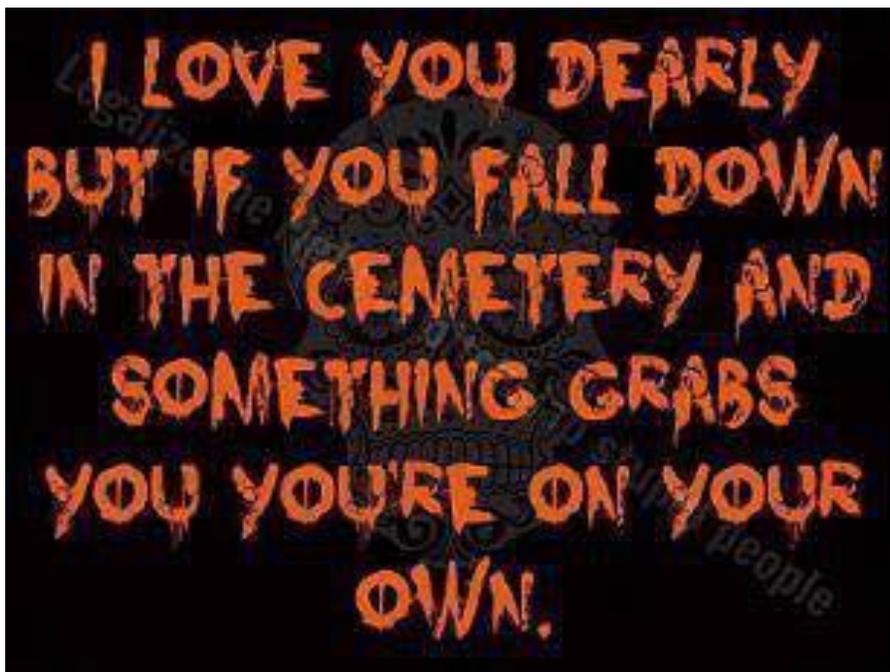
Occasionally within the series are printed maps that are based on manuscript maps also located with the series. The first map is an original manuscript map showing a portion of the battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The back of this map notes that it was to appear in an 1874 atlas. The more finished and printed version of the map is also found within RG 109. It is interesting to compare the two maps.

During the digitization process, close attention was paid to information written or stamped on the backs of the maps. All maps within the series that contained unique information on their reverse were digitized both front and back. Both sides are available to view in our online catalog.

Many Confederate generals later donated maps to the National Archives to become part of a Confederate archives. Often, the names of the donors or original owners are written or stamped on the reverse of the maps. Names such as General Samuel Gibbs French, General Trimble, General Thomas L. Sned, General Polk, General Thomas Hindman can be found on the backs of many maps. One notable map of the Malvern Hill battlefield includes a notation on the back indicating that it was owned by General Lafayette McLaws, a commander with the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War. Although the general could not remember who drew the map or when it was created, he believed that it came into his possession during the Civil War.

All of the Confederate Maps may be viewed at <https://www.archives.gov/>. Search RG 109. Take some time to browse through these maps, enjoying both the fronts and the backs!

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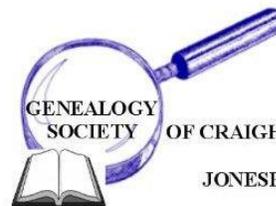


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