BRICKWALL GAZETTE

Genealogy Society
Of
Craighead County, Arkansas

This month's meeting is
October 18, 2026

Location: Community Rm. 630 Southwest Drive

Editor: Nancy Matthews

VOLUME NUMBER THIRTY, ISSUE NUMBER TEN October 2026

MEETING HAPPENINGS:

September Meeting

Our September Meeting was held on September 20, 2026 in Community Room at the First Community 630 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR.

We had a wonderful time learning about One-Room Schools and what teachers could and could not do.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Board Meeting for October was held on October 10, 2026 in the Community Room at the Hilltop (910 Chancery Lane) location of First Community Bank.

1. October Program
2. Historian
3. The next scheduled board meeting will be November 7, 2026.

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OCTOBER PROGRAM: Our October program will be held on October 18, 2026 in the Community Room at the First Community Bank at 630 Southwest Drive.

The program will be: Genealogy and How Scammers Target Societies. The program will be presented by Chris Wilcox.

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Genealogy Society of Craighead County Arkansas

Genealogy and How Scammers Target Societies
by
Chris Wilcox

Sunday ~ October 18, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Room ~ First Community Bank
630 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, Arkansas

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BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER:

Candy Ellis – October 3
April Norwood – October 5
Charles Cottam – October
Sharon Winford – October
Karin McCarns – October 19

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Historian:

We are in need of a Historian. Our Historian, Jan Beasley, is moving. We need someone that would be willing to fill out that term. If you would be interested, please contact gscca@suddenlink.net. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

GSCCA Board ~~ 2026 - 2027

President – Irene Goble
Recording Secretary – Kathy Simpson
Corresponding Secretary – Virginia Adams
Membership Director -- Debbie Powers
Publications/Newsletters – Nancy Matthews
Member-At-Large: Kathy Williams

Vice President – Gail Lies
Historian – Jan Beasley
Treasurer – Candy Ellis
Publicity – Elizabeth Stokes
Member-At-Large: Laura Rooks

Honorary: Lynn Dowdy & Deanna Ketcher

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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?

Please Share. What led you to become interested in Genealogy. We have had some great stories and would like to share more.

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

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Christmas Party

Saturday, December 5, 2026
Noon – 3:00 pm
Fat City Steak & Grillhouse
(Hwy 49 & Airport Road)

Door Prizes & Games

Bring your family and enjoy the fun. Everyone is responsible for their own meal and tip.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items to take to the **Helping Neighbors Food Pantry.** Our donations will be delivered to Helping Neighbors in memory of Susie Grommet.

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TNGS FALL VIRTUAL SEMINAR
David M. McCorkle

Saturday November 7, 2026

David M. McCorkle is a land records expert with research experience in a wide variety of other records used by genealogists, including court records, probate, colonial records, and governmental records. He has an extensive background in computer software. He has been working on using Artificial Intelligence tools to help researchers process evidence from these records in a more comprehensive and less time-consuming manner. David is currently President of the NC Genealogical Society.

Please register by Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

$25 for each TNGS Member – Virtual *
$35 for each Non-Member – Virtual*

Details: https://www.tngs.org/event-6764340

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Genealogy Score Sheet

Take Stock in Your Family History

Fill in the ancestors you can name, add your points, and see how strong your family tree knowledge is!

1 PARENTS

Max Points: 70 | 20 pts for each parent you can name. Bonus 10 pts if you can name both. | Photo Bonus: 10 pts each

#:	Relationship	Name	Name Points	Photo?	Photo Points	Total
1	Father		20	☐		
2	Mother		20	☐		

Parents Subtotal / 70

2 GRANDPARENTS

Max Points: 90 | 10 pts for each grandparent you can name. Bonus 10 pts if you can name all 4. | Photo Bonus: 10 pts each

#:	Relationship	Name	Name Points	Photo?	Photo Points	Total
1	Paternal Grandfather		10	☐		
2	Paternal Grandmother		10	☐		
3	Maternal Grandfather		10	☐		
4	Maternal Grandmother		10	☐		

Grandparents Subtotal / 90

3 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

Max Points: 180 | 10 pts for each great-grandparent you can name. Bonus 20 pts if you can name all 8. | Photo Bonus: 10 pts each

#:	Relationship	Name	Name Points	Photo?	Photo Points	Total
1	Paternal Grandfather's Father		10	☐		
2	Paternal Grandfather's Mother		10	☐		
3	Paternal Grandmother's Father		10	☐		
4	Paternal Grandmother's Mother		10	☐		
5	Maternal Grandfather's Father		10	☐		
6	Maternal Grandfather's Mother		10	☐		
7	Maternal Grandmother's Father		10	☐		
8	Maternal Grandmother's Mother		10	☐		

Great-Grandparents Subtotal / 180

4 2ND GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

Max Points: 360 | 10 pts for each 2nd great-grandparent you can name. Bonus 40 pts if you can name all 16. | Photo Bonus: 10 pts each

#:	Name	Name Points	Photo?	Photo Points	Total	#:	Name	Name Points	Photo?	Photo Points	Total
1		10	☐			9		10	☐		
2		10	☐			10		10	☐		
3		10	☐			11		10	☐		
4		10	☐			12		10	☐		
5		10	☐			13		10	☐		
6		10	☐			14		10	☐		
7		10	☐			15		10	☐		
8		10	☐			16		10	☐		

2nd Great-Grandparents Subtotal / 360

TOTAL SCORE _____ / 700

Every ancestor discovered adds another branch to your story.

mygenealogyaddiction.com

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Genealogy Explained

You're looking at death certificates wrong.
Most people scan for cause of death, birth date, maybe parents' names.
But there's one line professional genealogists check first: the informant.

This person provided all the biographical information on the certificate—and they're often completely unreliable.

Picture it: someone just lost their father. A clerk asks for their grandmother's maiden name.

They panic. Say "Smith" because they think it was Smith.

Now that false information lives permanently in a legal document.

The informant could be anyone—a grieving spouse in shock, a distant relative, even a hospital clerk copying intake forms.

Understanding who signed determines if you should trust what's written...
continued in comments 👇
https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/the-one-line-on-death-records-that-genealogists-always-check-and-youre-probably-ignoring/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPWMnxleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETEzSHhLMFlFRDBtQmJkV1R5c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHs6whQBiK2j3jbyQX-azrV7p6kVp1jwbCONqCNUY-w6kvE1Pa_9tGdX7HbY4_aem_Bbcdk6q5TI_do73gIzg5nA

Before copying any death certificate data into your family tree, check the informant's relationship to the deceased. A spouse knows occupation and address but might blank on birth details. Siblings are reliable for parents' info. Hospital records? **Assume nothing**.

You know that feeling when you're stressed out or nervous and someone asks you a question and your brain just… blanks?

Now imagine you're having that brain freeze while standing in a funeral home. Your father just died.

Some clerk is asking you for his mother's maiden name—your grandmother, who you vaguely remember from childhood but who died when you were seven.

You panic. You say "Smith" because… wasn't it Smith? Pretty sure it was Smith. Congratulations. You just permanently encoded false information into a legal document that genealogists will treat as gospel for the next 200 years.

This is the dirty secret of death certificates: they're only as good as the grief-stricken, memory-impaired, or completely uninformed person who filled them out.

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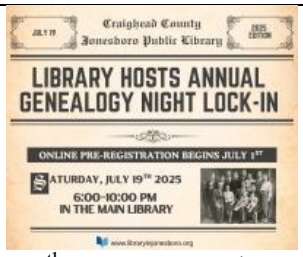
"My ancestors did WHAT?"



19th Summer Lock-In
17 July 2027

Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library

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

hair by April

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

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
Where community comes first.

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

Join us as a Sponsor. We would love 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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