



Village Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 2

Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909

June 2006

VGS General Meeting:
The Coronado Center, 2 p.m.
First Thursday of each month
VGS Breakfast Meeting:
McAuley Center, 8:00 a.m.
Third Thursday of each month
(September to June)

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VGS Programs:

June 1, 2006--Understanding Early Land Records

Marilyn Mertens will present this program. A member of VGS, she and her husband Ron moved to the Village in 2001 from Wichita Falls, Texas. A native Nebraskan, she is a retired political science professor whose parents instilled in her a love of genealogy and family history. She has pursued family history research in the United States and Europe. From her academic

background, she carries into her genealogy investigations an emphasis on thorough and accurate research and documentation.

We will be contacting speakers for fall programs soon. Please let us know of any topics and speakers that you would be particularly interested in hearing. If you have heard a speaker that you think is interesting, please let us know also.

September 7, 2006--Historical Events Contributing to Immigration

Dr. Van Davis of Hot Springs will be our speaker. He will focus on the underlying reasons prompting the waves of immigrant populations to leave their homes and journey over the ocean to America in the 1600s, the Colonies in the 1700s, the United States in the 1800s and, time permitting, he will talk about the 1900s. Dr. Davis was a history professor at National Park Community College for 32 years and Social Science Division Chairman for the past 16 years. He is also a team chair in the Consultant Evaluator Corps of the Higher Education Commission and a member of their review committee and readers' panel. He has a B.A. from Simpson College, an M.A. from Oxford University and a PhD from the University of Virginia. He describes himself as a professional historian, who sees his primary role to popularize history for his students. Dr. Davis is also a runner, having completed 52 marathons. He returned to Boston on St.

VGS Officers:

President.....Jeanette Frahm
V.P. Programs Marcia Clark
Asst. V.P. Programs...Dori Shaffer
V.P. MembershipFrank Moore
Secretary.....Joy Stefan
TreasurerPaul Harkins
Librarian..... Mitzi Hunter
Historian.....Glenn Shelley

Board of Directors :
Newsletter Editor... Jim McGregor
Assistant Editor Diane Boyd
Past President.....Dennis Zymboly

Patrick's Day to run his fifth Boston Marathon.

October 5, 2006--Small Town Boy, Telling the Story of your Life for your Descendants

Village resident for part of the year and Wisconsin resident for the rest of the year is Dr. Don Van Scotter, our October speaker. He is the author of *Small Town Boy* where he describes his life growing up in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, with four brothers in a small house his parents lived in for 54 years. Maybe he can motivate us to write the stories of our lives for our descendants!! Dr. Van Scotter served in the U.S. Army as both an enlisted man and an officer. His tour in the U.S. and Korea was quite an experience for a 22-year-old first lieutenant. He is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee. While studying dentistry he officiated at high school basketball games and

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worked at the VA Hospital. He taught at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison for many years in addition to maintaining a private practice in periodontics. He has been married to Jean for over 50 years and they have four children.

November 2, 2006--Remember Me as You Pass By: Cemetery Art and Symbolism

Our November speaker will be Susan Young, who is the outreach coordinator at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History at 118 West Johnson Avenue, Springdale, Arkansas. She is a lifelong resident of Fayetteville and is a fifth-generation Ozarker. Susan will include the following in her talk: some common tombstone symbols and their meanings, tips for reading weathered marble gravestones which requires some knowledge of the carver's craft, how to properly clean cemetery stones and when not to clean them, and she identifies many of the secret society and emblem charms often found on tombstones. She loves the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and is constantly working out new ways to highlight the Ozark past. She puts together the museum newsletter, keeps up their website, and represents the museum on various state boards. In addition, she is a very entertaining and energetic speaker.

December 1, 2006--Christmas Party and "Show and Tell"

Members will have an opportunity to show their prized family history, document, map, photograph, or other research artifact and tell the group about it. Punch and Christmas treats will also be available as well as door prizes.

January 4, 2007--German Research Made Easy

Dr. Steven J. Schafer of Little Rock will be our speaker. The Germans were very good record keepers, and Dr. Schafer's presentation will focus on some of the German records, maps, and other German research aids that are available. He will also talk about the German words that you need to know the meaning of in order to be successful in your research. Dr. Schafer is currently director of development for the Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas. He grew up in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, which is in the northwest part of the state.

Thank you to Barbara Garlough for finding our September speaker Dr. Van Davis and working with

him to develop the content of his talk. We appreciate your help.

*Marcia Clark, VP-Programs
Dori Shaffer, Ass't VP-Programs*

From the President

It is hard to believe that this year of the Village Genealogical Society is about to come to an end. Some of my goals have been met but some are still in the making. Thanks to all the outstanding efforts of the officers and membership, VGS remains very successful with a membership of about 112 families.

We certainly have grown in knowledge from all the outstanding programs arranged by **Dori Schafer** and **Marcia Clark**. They provided us with speakers from the community who certainly educated and entertained us. **Joy Stefan** has done a masterful job of transcribing the happenings of our meetings so that

all of us could have a reference to our past meetings. She also served as Nominating Chairman for the Nominating Committee and came up with a slate of officers for the coming year without even holding a meeting, thanks to e-mail communication. The quarterly newsletter published by **Jim McGregor** and **Diane Boyd**, has brought fresh and current ideas for genealogy research. A goal we met this year was to develop a VGS web site which now is maintained and upgraded by **Larry Smith**. Don't forget to check the web site at <http://members.cox.net/hsvgs>. Larry also has added an archive of VGS newsletters dating back to March 2004. Our treasurer, **Paul Harkins**, always kept us fiscally sound with excellent reports of our finances and was always prompt in allocating our monies when necessary. As Librarian, **Mitzi Hunter** has done so much toward selecting and organizing our collection housed at the Coronado Library. She has compiled a list of our books that is available on our web site for you to view. Our membership Chairman, **Doris Lenox** unfortunately became very ill but is recovering and agreed to try the position again next year. A special thanks to **Frank Moore** for stepping in and continuing the membership duties. **Glenn Shelley**, historian, who has kept publicity articles to reflect the history of VGS also contributed some helpful information of our history to be printed in the newsletter. And **Dennis Zymboly**, immediate past president, is always there to fill in, direct, and guide us whenever needed.

Many of you have contributed your time and talent this year to help our society grow. I especially want to thank Marvin Langston for all his efforts and teaching of the

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beginner genealogy class and Mary Reid Warner for her excellent help and class in preparation for our trip to Salt Lake City.

As this year comes to a close, many of you will be traveling on research trips, to reunions, etc. to share or acquire knowledge of your family tree. Last summer I attended a family reunion of my Warren/Hardesty cousins in Ohio where our ancestors settled in the early 1800's. You can view some pictures of our reunion at http://www.incolor.com/rgcox/warren_hardesty_reunion.htm. It was very moving to walk the land where my early ancestors walked, worked and died. One of my cousins shared a story ("THE STORYTELLERS") from an anonymous researcher which I have asked to be included in this newsletter. It really reflects my feelings and thoughts of genealogy and my ancestors.

In closing, my thanks to all of you for the support and help this past year. Have a safe and successful summer and bring back lots of genealogical discoveries to share with us this fall.

Jeanette Frahm

The Storytellers

We are the chosen. My feelings are that in each family there is one who feels called upon to find their ancestors; to put flesh on their bones and make them live again; to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. For me, doing genealogy is not just a cold gathering of facts but a way breathing life into all who have gone before us.

We are the storytellers of the tribes. All tribes have one. We have been called upon, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before

us cry out to us to tell their story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us?" How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me?

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who I am and the reasons for what I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying, "I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh". It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish and how they contributed to what I am today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses; their never giving in or giving up; their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to pride with a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for all of us so that we might be born who we are; that we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring as we inscribe each found fact of their existence because we are they and they are we. SO, as a scribe to his calling, I tell the story of my family. It is up to the one called in the next generation to step up and take their place in the long line of family storytellers. These are the reasons why I am the Storyteller. It is my way of putting flesh on the bones of those not forgotten.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Jeanette Frahm

From the Librarian

A VGS Book Committee has been formed to buy new books for the library. Here is a list of books re-

cently purchased:

Plantagenet Ancestry: Study in Colonial & Medieval Families

Trace Your Roots with DNA

Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800

The Coronado Center Library has hired two new Librarians. On May 18, VGS submitted the recently purchased and donated books to the C.C. Library. They will be cataloged and placed on the shelves for your convenience.

Mitzi Hunter

New VGS Members

The Society would like to welcome the first time members who have joined for the year 2006. We hope it will be a fruitful time in your research.

Margaret Bird, Don Dierks, Dale & Loretta Fleetwood, Pam Freudenthal, Valerie Hartnett, Joyce Hayek, Harry Hoover, Tim & Anna Jean Keating, Alf & Wanda Langston, Dick & Carol McClelland, Jeff & Jeanne Meek, Jerry Pogemiller, Robert Rodgers, Norma & Lowell Ross, James Ryan, Carol Lee Scranton, Carolyn Sinderson, David Smith, Larry & Shirley Smith, Gene & JoAnn Tenney, Tom & Brenda Tirrell, Wayne & Raelene Tondro, and Julie Walters.

Looking Back

About 18 years ago, five individuals here in the Village, who were quite interested in family genealogy, got together to form the Village Genealogy Society. Today we enjoy the benefits of their endeavor.

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We thought it might be interesting to look back to see what the society was doing years ago and to get a glimpse of what their goals were for the future.

Five Years Ago, June 2001

While browsing through the VGS Historian books for the spring of 2001, several things became apparent to me. One was the variety of genealogical subjects that were presented. In the span of five months those who attended the regular meetings heard about the preservation of cemeteries and care of tombstones from Tammie Dillion. Dr Steven Schafer spoke on searching for your German roots (as reported in the last newsletter): Mike Millwood (our recent May 2006 speaker) addressed the history of the Scots-Irish and their emigration. In April, the renowned speaker, Lloyd Bockstruck spoke about a number of interesting topics in the Family History Workshop. Russell Baker made his annual visit to the village to talk about all the neglected, overlooked and underutilized genealogical records. The members were not only treated to a great selection of topics dealing with genealogy, but the speakers were all top notch, being experts in their subject matter. Even if one has no particular interest in a particular subject, the talks were always interesting and enlightening and well presented. How fortunate it is to be a member of the Village Genealogical Society.

Ten Years Ago, June 1996

Ten years ago, the VGS was privileged to have Marvin Langston as president and Mary Reid Warner as program chairwoman. What a dynamic duo. What a tremendous asset these two professional genealogists have been to the Society. The older (as in years as members of

VGS) members are all well aware of what Mary and Marvin have done for the Society and many of the newer members have already been the benefactors of their knowledge. The list of their genealogical accomplishments and endeavors is extensive. They have written books, given lectures, taught classes, and a host of other achievements in the genealogical field. Between the two of them, they have about 85 years of experience in family history. It is also interesting to note that Marv has traced his family tree back to the 14th century.

These two individuals have contributed so much of their time and talent in the last ten years, and we can only hope that we can look forward to ten or more years of absorbing their expertise.

*Glenn Shelley
Historian*

Garland County Library

If you are researching Arkansas ancestors, the Garland County Library has as a full set of books of the Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Arkansas. These books were originally published, I believe, in the 1880s, and reprinted in 1978. They are published by areas in Arkansas, central, eastern, northeastern, northwestern, southern, and western. Counties are listed in the subtitles for easy selection. There is also listed a Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of thirty east Tennessee counties -- reprinted in 1973.

To search for books in the Garland County Library, go to their website at <http://www.garland.lib.ar.us/> and click Card Catalog. To find the Goodspeed book listings, type 'Goodspeed' in the Title Alphabetical dialog box.

The Garland County Library is located at 1427 Malvern Ave., in Hot Springs, AR, 501-623-4161. They have a large room of genealogical reference books.

Mitzi Hunter

VGS Surname List

Due to circumstances beyond my control, some of the data for the surname book has been lost. I would appreciate it if you would submit a list of your surnames on the attached sheet so that we may again have a more current list of surnames to exchange. You can either give me the information at the meetings or e-mail it to me at J44F65@yahoo.com.

The Surname and Area Research Book will now be available at the meetings but will continue to be updated as soon as possible.

Jeanette Frahm

VGS Website

The VGS website is available for your viewing. We will try to keep it up-to-date on our activities and resources. Larry Smith is the webmaster, and is doing a fantastic job. You may access the site at: <http://members.cox.net/hsvgs/>.

Please visit it to check for officers, meetings, classes, library inventory, genealogy links, and more.

VGS Logo

The Village Genealogical Society has adopted a new logo. It is now being used on the VGS newsletters and website.

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Helpful Web Sites

USGenWeb & WorldGenWeb

<http://www.usgenweb.com/>

Organization is by county and state, and this website provides you with links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties.

<ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/>

USGenWeb at rootsweb.com, listed by state links, then county links for easy access. This is a different database than usgenweb.com.

<http://www.worldgenweb.org/>

The WorldGenWeb Project is divided into 11 world regions. Each region is divided up by countries and each country is divided into individual provinces, states, or counties.

RootsWeb.com Home Page

www.rootsweb.com

Has many common links on the home page for easy access. It has international information as well as national. Click Websites on the top for many additional links.

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

1880 United States census, International Genealogical Index, Family History Library Catalog (micro-filmed records, books, etc., that can be ordered for use at the local Family History Center).

Genealogy Search Engine

www.werelate.org

We Relate is a genealogy-focused search engine and wiki. Source: Family Tree Magazine News Service 05-11-06.

Find Lost Websites

<http://www.archive.org/>

Search for lost websites that no longer has an active link. This site archives old and deleted websites.

Searching a Website

If you know of a website that may contain a surname you are looking for, but has many pages, you can search the site for pages with the surname. On your internet browser web search, or www.google.com, type 'site:' immediately followed by the website name, add a space and type the information you are looking for (surname city state):
[site:www.\[websitename\].com](http://www.[websitename].com)

Various VGS Members

Property Descriptions

In tracing ancestors you will frequently find references to property. It may be described in metes and bounds, or as section, 14 Twp number 20, or SW 1/4 of NE 1/2. What does it all mean and how can you locate the property? There is an excellent website that will take you through the whole procedure. It explains it very clearly. If on the other hand you encounter the word "portiones" (there are other spellings) it is Spanish for portions. This is a term used in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to describe early Spanish Land grants. In dry country they were often very long and narrow, fronting on a river to give each holder access to water. The website is at:
http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a_plss.html

Ancestry Weekly Digest, October 22, 2005

Melting Pot Genealogical Society Library

223-A Hazel Street
Hot Springs

Hours:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday and
2nd Saturday of the month.

Call 501-624-0229 to confirm that
the library is open before going to
visit.
www.rootsweb.com/~armpgs

**Family History Center
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints**

765 Malvern Ave.,
Hot Springs
501-262-5640 (during open hours)

Hours:
Tuesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed Holidays

There is also a FHC at Otter Creek,
just off I-30 in Little Rock.

Memphis Central Library

3030 Poplar Ave.
901-415-2700

Hours:
Mon.-Thu. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

<http://www.memphislibrary.org/about/libraries/central.htm>

Coming Events

Greg A. Boyd
Author & Publisher of Arphax
Publishing Co.
Fri., Oct. 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Barbara Vines Little, CG
Nationally known lecturer
Sat., Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pleasant Valley Church of Christ
10900 Rodney Parham, Little Rock
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/2006seminar.htm>

Reminders

If your email address, home address, or phone number changes, please let one of the officers know so that you will continue to receive the Newsletter.

There are no VGS meetings in July and August. This is a time of vacation and rest for all of us.

From the Editors:

Thanks to all of you who contributed articles to the Newsletter.

If you have a bit of genealogy news, trivia, or hint, please email it to mitzibitzi2@hotmail.com or jimmcg1@cox.net. Be sure to give the source so we can give credit where it's due.

Arkansas History Commission

One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday
<http://www.ark-ives.com/>

On your first visit you must register and obtain an admission card.

Directions:

- Take I-30 to I-430 north.
- Take the I-630 east exit.
- Take the 2B exit.
- Turn left toward the Capitol.
- Turn left on the 1st street
- At the next street turn right.
- At bottom of hill park in the large parking lot.
- Enter through door on ground level.

The History Commission and State Archives are on the 2nd floor.

You must sign in to enter the building. And sign out when you leave.

Goetsch:

Remember me in the family tree
My name, my days, my strife;
Then I'll ride upon the wings of
Time and live an endless life.

Suggestions for Programs and Activities

Program _____

Contact Person _____ **Phone Number** _____

Address _____

Would you help arrange the program? Yes? No? Comments _____

Your Name _____ **Phone Number** _____

