



Genealogy Society  
Of  
Craighead County, Arkansas

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

Next meeting: Sunday, September 17, 2000

ISSUE NUMBER NINE, VOLUME NUMBER FOUR

SEPTEMBER 2000

**MEETING HAPPENINGS:** Our August meeting was a trip to the Arkansas History Commission. On Saturday, 19 August, we met on the parking lot of the library and left at 6:30 a.m. Everyone that went found some useful information. We arrived back in Jonesboro around 7:00 p.m.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting for September was held on 9 September 2000 at 2:00 p.m. at Jonesboro Library.

1. We have a signed contract from the ASU Armory for 31 March 2001 for our next seminar.
2. The Round Room is available again at the Jonesboro Library.
3. The next Beginner's Class will be Monday 2 October & Tuesday 3 October from 6:30-8:30.
4. The next Executive Board meeting will be 7 October 2000 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Library.

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**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** The September meeting will be Sunday, 17 September 2000 in the Round Room at the Jonesboro Library. Following a short business meeting, we plan to work on the index for Book 1 of the 1910 Craighead County Census and the index for the Jackson County Cemetery Book. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

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**DUES**

Dues are \$15.00 a year. They can be mailed to GSCCA (Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas) P.O. Box 2614, Jonesboro, AR 72402-2614. We would be glad to have you with us.

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**NEWSLETTER:** The newsletter is published monthly. You may have queries, stories, your family forms, etc. anything pertaining to genealogy, published. This is your newsletter, so use it and enjoy it. Send articles for publishing to: Nancy Matthews at 1811 S. Culberhouse, Jonesboro, AR 72401, e-mail: [nlmatthews@insolwwb.net](mailto:nlmatthews@insolwwb.net). We welcome all your articles, queries, etc. and will print them as room permits. The newsletter can also be viewed on the Internet at: <http://www.insolwwb.net/~nlmatthews/newsletter.htm>.

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## THE CLOTHESLINE

A clothesline was a news forecast  
To neighbors passing by.  
There were no secrets you could keep  
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link  
For neighbors always knew  
If company had stopped on by  
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the fancy sheets  
and towels on the line;  
You'd see the company table clothes  
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth  
To folks who lived inside  
As brand new infant clothes were hung  
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could  
So readily be known  
By watching how the sizes changed  
You'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck,  
As extra sheets were hung;  
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,  
Haphazardly were strung.

It said, "Gone on vacation now"  
When lines hung limp and bare.  
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged  
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon  
If wash was dingy gray,  
As neighbors raised their brows, and looked  
Disgustedly away.

But clotheslines now are of the past  
For dryers make work less.

Now what goes on inside a home  
Is anybody's guess

I really miss that way of life.  
It was a friendly sign  
When neighbors knew each other best  
By what hung on the line!

Author Unknown

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## SUCCESSFUL ORAL HISTORIES

Oral histories are among the most valued artifacts in the collection of any genealogist. It's an incomparable thrill to listen to your ancestor's voice as he or she describes his or her own life. It's an experience that often outshines the discovery of a marriage certificate or a land deed, and one that is more easily understood and shared with those who do not share your own passion for reconstructing your family tree.

If you are contemplating recording an oral history, either for someone else or for yourself, here are a few keys to keep in mind:

Decide on a topic ahead of time. You can't cover an entire lifetime in one sitting. Pick just one part of the person's life (high school, early marriage, military service, employment, raising children) and focus on that topic.

Compile a list of questions. Simply asking a long list of questions usually doesn't result in a good interview. But if you have a list ahead of time you will have a way to get the ball rolling. And if the interview begins to drag, you can ask a question or two from your list to get the energy level back up.

Make sure you have enough batteries for your equipment, whether you're using a tape recorder or a digital recorder. And enough tape or memory to do the whole job. Also, test your equipment ahead of time to make sure it's in good working order.

Conduct the interview in quiet, comfortable surroundings. Hard chairs and incessant background noise can make your efforts impossible. And don't try to spend too much time all at once. If you think the interview will take longer than 30 or 40 minutes, try to break it up so both of you can rest and rejuvenate.

Schedule a follow-up interview. As you review the interview you will probably find subjects you want to explore further. If possible, take the time to go back and ask about those things.

Edit your interview and make a transcription. As fascinating as voice recordings are, most of them can use some editing to take out unwanted intrusive noises and "retakes" of questions or answers that were partially garbled. And a printed transcript will help preserve the content of the interview, even if the recording itself is later lost or degraded.

## Resources:

My Grandmother's Voice <http://www.everton.com/FHN/10sep99.htm>  
Oral History Association <http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha>  
Oral History Questions <http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/oralhist.htm>

## EVERTON'S FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLINE

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### APPELLATE COURT RECORDS

Have you ever thought of searching Appellate Court Records? They are printed and arranged chronologically by court, with alphabetic indexes to the parties involved. These records are typically found in legal libraries of law schools, large legal firms, and state governments. Has anyone in your family ever contested a will? Well, this is where that wealth of information will be found. I understand a lot more of these are going online, too.

United States Appellate Court Records  
<http://www.everton.com/oe3-14/appeal.htm>

Texas Appellate Court Case Search  
<http://www.info.courts.state.tx.us/appindex/appindex.exe>

California Appellate Courts Case Information System  
<http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/>

## EVERTON'S FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLINE

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Compiled and Published by Donham Directory, Co.  
Springfield, Mo.

### GRANITOID SIDEWALKS

Adkins H L 529 Huntington

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## **HOSPITALS**

Protestant Hospital 1208 S. Church  
St. Bernard Hospital 224 E. Matthews

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BOOKS -- BOOKS -- BOOKS

**1900 Census of Craighead County, Arkansas** -- about 437 pages – indexed  
price 35.00 includes postage

**1880 Census of Craighead County, Arkansas** -- 168 pages – indexed  
price 18.00 includes postage

**1870 Census of Craighead County, Arkansas** -- 117 pages – indexed  
price 15.00 includes postage

**1860 Census of Craighead County, Arkansas** -- 81 pages – indexed  
price 12.00 plus postage

**1860, 1870 & 1880 Census of Craighead County, Arkansas** -- Three book set.  
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**Cemeteries of Craighead County, Arkansas -- Volume I** – indexed  
price \$30.00 includes postage

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**Walking Through Your Past: A Guide to Finding Your Roots**  
price \$15.00 includes postage

This form is for our upcoming book on our members surnames that they are researching.  
Please include all the surnames of your family lineage.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES \_\_\_\_\_

Return Form To: Genealogy Society of Craighead County, Arkansas  
Post Office Box 2614  
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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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DUES ARE \$15.00 PER YEAR DUE ON THE 1ST DAY OF JANUARY.

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The Genealogy Society of  
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