

NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIE

WINTER 2019

PRESERVING OUR REGION'S HISTORY

Historical Society Presented World War I Program



Some 50 members and guests of the Grand Prairie Historical Society were treated to an interesting program about World War I and its impacts on area Arkansans on January 17, at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. The presentation was made by Drew Ulrich (left), Exhibit Curator at the Delta Cultural Center in Helena. After a chili supper, the organization's winter quarterly meeting was conducted. President Dyan Bohnert, Glenn Mosenthin, and Gena Seidenschwarz updated the group on preparations for the Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference which is being held in Stuttgart on April 11–13.

Arkansas Historical Association to Convene at Stuttgart in April

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) will hold its 78th Annual Conference at Stuttgart on April 11–13, marking the first time the organization has visited the Grand Prairie since 1963. The group previously convened in Stuttgart in 1955. The theme of the 2019 conference will be "Land, Race, and Identity." Presentations will be offered on a broad array of topics from all time periods that illuminate how the land—and ideas about it—have intersected with various identities, including race, to help shape the history of Arkansas. The conference will mark several major anniversaries, including the bicentennial of the formation of Arkansas Territory, as well as the centennial of the Elaine Race Massacre. There will be a genealogy workshop on Thursday afternoon at the Grand Prairie Center. Thursday night's reception is at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. Friday registration, sessions, break, luncheon, reception, and awards banquet take place at Grand Prairie Center and at the Phillips Community College UA Seminar Room next door. Friday afternoon tours will leave from and return to Grand Prairie Center. Saturday sessions and luncheon are at the Grand Prairie Center. The registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration is March 29. Grand Prairie Historical Society is very pleased to have the opportunity to host the AHA again after 56 years. Details will follow via email. Make plans to join us!

A. R. Porter Was Stuttgart's First Physician



Arthur Russell Porter, the first person to practice medicine in the Stuttgart area, was born October 6, 1859 at the northeast Missouri town of Newark, in Knox County. He was the son of Kentuckians James William and Columbia Marshall Porter. James Porter owned the J. W. Porter Lumber Company in DeWitt for many years. Early Stuttgart business leader Joseph Ira Porter was Arthur's first cousin. He studied pre-medicine at the University of Arkansas, specializing in diseases of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat, and in 1889 received his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He completed post-graduate work at the New York Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Infirmary. Around 1887, A. R. Porter married Arkansan Nannie Dunn. They were the parents of two children, Arthur Jr. and Susie. By 1890, Dr. Porter was practicing medicine and operating Stuttgart's first drug store.

He was extensively involved in business enterprises. He served as vice-president of cousin J. I. Porter's land company in Rison. This was a lumber firm much like his Stuttgart company. Dr. A. R. Porter was part owner of the Stuttgart Rice Milling company, and was president of Lenox Land Company. He was a charter member of First Methodist Church.

Dr. Porter practiced five years in Stuttgart before selling his business to Dr. Leander H. Morphey and moving to Memphis, where he became a prominent specialist and financier. He was a director of the Industrial Bank and Trust Company as well as the Mississippi Valley Bank and Trust Company. He was part owner of the Gibraltar Coal Company of Memphis. A Mason and member of St. John's Methodist Church, Porter held memberships in the Shelby County and Tennessee Medical Societies. He retired from active medical practice around 1936. His son Arthur Russell Porter Jr. also became a successful Memphis physician. The elder Dr. Porter, Stuttgart's first doctor, died March 11, 1946, and is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis. Sources: Census records and "Stuttgart's First Physician Died in Memphis Monday," *Daily Leader and Arkansawyer*, March 12, 1946

Old Cabin To Be a Beauty Spot



The old log cabin home now being erected by Mrs. Leander H. Morphey at her home at 4th and Maple Streets will be one of the most attractive places in the county when completed. Mrs. Morphey is a lover of old-time customs, and the possession of a log house has always been her hobby. Having seen Stuttgart grow from a small village to one of the largest cities on the prairie, the memories of bygone days linger in her heart and amidst the rush and bluster of modern living, the good old days come back—the days when folks toiled hard and received little for their efforts. She has watched the changing of the times, but the old days to her were the best, and to bring them back, to cherish fond recollections, she has caused to be erected this home.

The building is of logs, with mud between on the outside and concrete on the inside. A large brick chimney of the old fashioned design stands on the west end. The windows slide on the inside and are protected outside by log weatherstrips. The interior is very attractive with its old fashioned fireplace, Dutch oven, dog irons and kettles. The floor, walls and ceiling all have that old cabin touch, while the coal oil lamps add to its homelike atmosphere. The furniture is mostly walnut of old fashioned design, and the decorations on the walls will be comprised of relics of olden times. The building is not as yet completed, but enough is finished that the average individual can picture it in his mind. It will be the showplace of the city in a short time. *Grand Prairie Leader* (Stuttgart, Ark.), November 29, 1934. Ed. note—the chimney from this cabin is still standing.

Bound for Goldman

Editor Gleaner,

The track laying has now reached the east side of Big Island, about five miles from here, and the officers are exerting every means to reach this place by the end of next week. Maj. Shellenberger, one of the chief engineers of the road, was in town a few days ago, and while here located the depot and laid off the side track which is 1400 feet long.

We had the pleasure recently of riding from Clarendon into old Arkansas county, in company with our friends Miller and Chapline, on the first train of cars that ever crossed her borders—an honor that but few of her oldest citizens can boast. Some one had stretched across the track a canvas bearing the inscription “Welcome the Iron Horse to Arkansas County,” and as we rode swiftly under the arch we felt that every honest heart extended a hand of welcome. The cars made such good time that our young friend J. J. H. went to kiss his girl good bye at Clarendon and kissed a cook at the next station.

The German Lutheran Church near here will be dedicated the 2nd Sunday in May, the Rev. S. H. Shaller of Little Rock performing the ceremony. It has a lofty steeple, and is an edifice well worthy to the community and does honor to the builders, principally the Germans. Uncle Bob, I am requested by the Germans to extend to you and your “devils” a hearty welcome on that occasion.

This communication was ready for last week’s issue but owing to the heavy dew, the mail lines between DeWitt and Carlisle and Duvall’s Bluff became so irregular that we are forced to lay it on the table for another week of sunshine, that we at leisure moments might read again the bright ideas of “Honest Lisha” in regard to the “sufferers”—the drivers on the lines!

Come up. Captain Baker will give you a free ride over the track to Brinkley and back, he furnishing the steam, we the “oil.”

HONEST JOHN

Goldman, April 12th, 1883.

Arkansas Gleaner (DeWitt), April 13, 1883. Ed. note—The Texas & St. Louis (Cotton Belt) Railway was completed from the Mississippi River at Bird’s Point, Missouri to Gatesville, Texas in August 1883, followed by a “silver spike” ceremony on the new bridge over the Arkansas River near Rob Roy. This letter to the *Arkansas Gleaner* indicates that the line was completed through the Stuttgart area in April or possibly May 1883. Construction progressed very slowly between Clarendon and Pine Bluff, due to the large number of streams needing bridged, and the necessary fill work along many stretches of the line. It was in fact the final portion of Cotton Belt’s system to be completed. The October 1883 Cotton Belt timetable is shown on the next page. The railway operated one daily train each way across the Grand Prairie region, with stops at Parham, Goldman, and Humphrey. Travel time from Goldman to Pine Bluff was around an hour and a half, while Goldman to Brinkley took over two hours. Also of interest is the reference to the building of St. John’s Lutheran Church on the site of today’s Lone Tree Cemetery. Incidentally, the *Gleaner* was owned and edited by Col. Robert H. Crockett, who became Stuttgart’s first mayor a few years later.

Following page: Timetable published at the beginning of Cotton Belt’s rail service across the Grand Prairie. W. F. Allen, ed., “Cotton Belt Route,” *Travelers’ Official Railway Guide for the United States and Canada* 15 (October 1883): 381.

"COTTON BELT ROUTE."

TEXAS & ST. LOUIS RAILWAY.

381

IN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS.

J. W. Paramore, President.
 Geo. W. Ristine, General Manager.
 L. B. Fish, Treasurer.
 W. C. Douglas, Assistant Treasurer.
 E. F. Walker, Auditor.

General Offices—23 & 25 South 4th St., St. Louis, Mo.

IN TEXAS.

Geo. W. Lilley, Gen. Frt. & Pass. Agt.
 A. S. Dodge, Asst. Gen. Frt. Agent.
 C. F. Stephens, Chief Engineer.
 G. W. Prescott, Supt. Motive Power & Mach'y.
 F. W. Paramore, Purchasing Agent.

Missouri & Arkansas Division.

A. E. Buchanan, Superintendent.

Texas Division.

A. L. Horner, Superintendent, Tyler, Texas.

Missouri & Arkansas Division.					Texas Division.							
A. E. Buchanan, Superintendent.					A. L. Horner, Superintendent, Tyler, Texas.							
Accom.	Mail & Exp.	No.	Oct. 28, 1883.		Mail & Exp.	Accom.	Mail & Exp.	No.	Oct. 28, 1883.		Mail & Exp.	Accom.
			Lve.	Arr.					Lve.	Arr.		
	4 15 am		CAIRO <i>a</i>	9 07	2 30 am		8 00 am	418	TEXARKANA 1838	11 30 pm		
7 00 am	5 45 "	0	Birds Point.....	12 30 "	6 30 pm		8 48 "	453	Rodgers.....	10 57 "		
8 32 "	6 45 "	19	Hibbard.....	1 30 pm	4 48 "		9 10 "	440	Corley.....	10 12 "		
9 45 "	7 26 "	32	Ristine.....	10 58 "	8 40 "		9 46 "	450	Bassett's.....	9 35 "		
10 15 "	7 45 "	37	Paw Paw Jc.....	10 37 "	8 10 "		10 20 "	461	Belden.....	8 59 "		
11 01 am	8 10 "	45	Como.....	10 15 "	2 29 "		10 35 "	465	Morris.....	8 44 "		
12 15 pm	9 30 "	58	Malden.....	9 25 "	1 23 "		10 56 "	472	Cookville.....	8 22 "		
12 50 "	9 50 "	65	Campbell.....	9 08 "	12 50 "		11 20 "	479	Mt. Pleasant.....	7 55 "		
1 28 "	10 07 "	70	St. Francis.....	8 49 "	12 20 n.n		11 40 "	486	Big Cypress.....	7 32 "		
2 25 "	10 35 "	79	Greenway.....	8 22 "	11 32 am		11 59 am	490	PITTSBURG <i>j</i>	7 15 "		
3 10 "	10 57 "	86	Rector.....	8 00 "	10 57 "		12 30 pm	500	Smith's Mill.....	6 40 "		
3 16 "	11 53 am	104	PARAGOULD <i>b</i>	7 06 "	9 21 "		12 58 "	509	Gilmer.....	6 10 "		
5 46 "	12 10 pm	109	Bethel.....	6 50 "	8 54 "		1 20 "	516	Lockhart.....	5 25 "		
6 30 "	12 31 "	116	Brookland.....	6 50 "	8 18 "		1 35 "	520	Summit.....	6 10 "		
7 20 "	1 30 "	125	JONESBORO <i>c</i>	5 30 "	7 30 "		1 50 "	524	BIG SANDY <i>k</i>	4 58 "		
7 20 pm	1 30 "	125	208	5 30 "	7 30 am		2 17 "	532	Winona.....	4 30 "		
	1 48 "	132	Gilkeson.....	5 10 "			3 30 "	546	TYLER <i>l</i>	3 40 "		
	2 07 "	138	Obear.....	4 52 "			3 30 "	546	2423	3 30 "		
	2 55 "	155	Fisher.....	4 04 "			4 10 "	558	Chandler.....	2 52 "		
	3 30 "	167	Tilton.....	3 30 "			4 34 "	566	Brownsboro.....	2 27 "		
	4 07 "	178	Bemis.....	2 52 "			5 01 "	575	Murchison.....	2 00 "		
	4 37 "	187	Hunter.....	2 22 "			5 25 "	583	ATHENS.....	1 33 "		
	5 50 "	199	BRINKLEY <i>d</i>	1 10 "			5 52 "	592	Malakoff.....	1 05 "		
	5 50 "	199	825	1 10 "			6 15 "	598	Trinity.....	12 42 "		
	6 20 "	207	Midway.....	12 38 "			6 37 "	606	Kerens.....	12 20 pm		
	6 50 "	214	CLARENDON <i>e</i>	12 05 pm			7 03 "	613	Powell.....	11 55 am		
	7 25 "	220	Siding No. 1.....	11 43 am			7 30 "	620	CORSICANA <i>m</i>	11 30 "		
	8 00 "	230	Parham.....	11 13 "			7 50 "	620	3373	11 10 "		
	8 27 "	238	Goldman.....	10 50 "			8 15 "	628	Waters.....	10 42 "		
	8 50 "	245	Humphrey's.....	10 20 "			8 40 "	634	Purden.....	10 18 "		
	9 18 "	251	Wabbaseca.....	9 54 "			9 05 "	642	Dawson.....	9 52 "		
		260	Waldo.....				9 27 "	647	Hubbard City.....	9 30 "		
	9 45 "	261	Rob Roy.....	9 15 "			9 59 "	655	Mt. Calm.....	9 00 "		
	10 10 "	267	PINE BLUFF <i>f</i>	9 00 "			10 30 "	664	Axtell.....	8 30 "		
	10 25 "	267	4000	8 30 "			11 20 "	676	WACO <i>n</i>	7 40 "		
	10 58 "	278	Grace.....	7 53 "			6 30 am	676	7317	7 40 "		9 10 pm
	11 15 "	284	Big Creek.....	7 33 "			7 16 "	694	Ritchie.....	7 16 "		8 25 "
	11 32 pm	290	Rison.....	7 15 "			7 36 "	687	South Bosque.....	7 05 "		8 00 "
	12 00 nht	300	Kingsland.....	6 43 "				690	Harris Creek.....			
	12 30 "	307	Fordyce.....	6 18 "			9 06 "	696	M'GREGOR <i>o</i>	6 40 am		7 00 "
	12 49 "	312	Thornton.....	6 00 "			9 41 "	702	Oglesby.....			5 45 "
	1 21 "	321	Bearden.....	5 32 "			10 26 "	710	Leon Junc.....			5 00 "
	1 50 "	329	Lilley.....	5 06 "			11 01 "	718	Fort Gates.....			4 25 "
	2 20 "	337	CAMDEN <i>g</i>	4 38 "			11 21 am	723	GATESVILLE 2687			4 00 pm
	2 20 "	337	1503	4 38 "					Arr. Lv.			
	2 42 "	343	Finn.....	4 18 "								
	3 00 "	348	Senter.....	4 01 "								
	3 32 "	357	Stephens.....	3 32 "								
	4 13 "	368	McNeil.....	2 58 "								
	4 56 "	381	Buckner.....	2 13 "								
	5 23 "	389	Lewisville.....	1 45 "								
	5 50 "	397	GARLAND CITY <i>h</i>	1 20 "								
	7 10 am	418	TEXARKANA <i>i</i>	12 00 nht								
			Arr. 1883 Lve.									

MISSOURI & ARKANSAS DIVISION.

New Madrid Branch.

Accom.	Accom.	Oct. 28, 1883.		Accom.	Accom.
4 15 am		0	LVCAIRO.....	2 00 am	
7 50 "	10 42 pm	27	Paw Paw Jc.....	10 27 pm	7 45 am
8 20 am	11 12 pm	43	NEW MADRID <i>p</i>	10 07 pm	7 15 am

CONNECTIONS.—*a* with Ill. Central, Wabash, St. L. & Pacific, Mobile & Ohio, and St. Louis & Cairo R. R.'s, and with Steamers to all points on Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. *b* with St. Louis, I. M. & So. Ry. *c* with Kans. City, Ft. Scott & Gulf R. R. *d* with Batesville & Brinkley and Memp. & Little Rock R. R.'s. *e* with Ark. Midland R. R. and Steamers on White River. *f* with Little Rock, Miss. River & Texas Ry. and Steamers on Arkansas River. *g* with St. Louis, I. M. & So. Ry. and Steamers on Ouachita River. *h* with Steamers on Red River. *i* with St. Louis, I. M. & Southern, and Texas Pac. R'y's. *j* with Missouri Pacific Ry. *k* with Texas & Pac. Ry. *l* with Int. & Gt. Northern Ry. *m* with Houston & Texas Central Ry. *n* with Houston & Texas Central Ry. *o* with Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Ry. *p* with Steamers on Mississippi River.

Note. * Daily. † Daily, except Sunday. ‡ Daily, except Saturday. § Daily, except Monday. ¶ Sundays only. Population [census of 1880] opposite stations. + Small stations.

Arkansas County's Oldest Resident

Grandma Bennett Remembers When Stuttgart Had a Boxcar Depot.

By KEN FRANCIS.
Arkansas Democrat Staff Writer.

ALMYRA—"Pa was always proud of the fact that it was President Grover Cleveland himself who signed his homestead papers," the old gentleman sitting across the table recalled.

That was a decade or so before the turn of the century, when the family moved to the old homestead two miles west of DeWitt. The man doing the talking was I. M. Bennett, oldest son of Mrs. Emma Bennett, who recently passed her 96th birthday and is the oldest resident of Arkansas county.

"Yes, sir," I. M. Bennett continued, "when the family came to this county with other settlers, back in about 1886, the only livelihood of Thomas Bennett, his father and late husband of Mrs. Emma Bennett, was 'day' work.

"Later on, we made prairie hay which we sold for \$2.60 a ton. Why, you know, rice had never been thought of as a crop for these parts."

These remarks are an introduction into the early life of Mrs. Bennett, affectionately known in Arkansas county as "Grandma." Her son made those remarks at a birthday party in Grandma Bennett's honor recently. Grandma now makes her home here with I. M.

Although she's nearing the century mark, Grandma's five sons are all living, and four of them are at Almyra. They are, besides I. M., M. G., W. H., and A. M. E. G., the other son, lives at Redfield. Grandma's flock of relatives extends to 12 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Grandma Bennett was a pioneer settler, coming here 10 years after her marriage to the late Thomas Bennett. She was born in Ohio, and lived in Dallas county, Iowa, before coming to the old homestead between here and DeWitt. That old homestead, incidentally, is right across the road from I. M. Bennett's home now.

When they came here, Stuttgart had only a small store, a school and church combined, and a four-room boarding house. (Stuttgart's population today is



Mrs. Emma Bennett, seated in a wicker wheelchair, and the group of her relatives represent five generations of the Bennett family of Almyra. Mrs. Dale Bracewell sits on the left, holding the infant daughter of Mrs. Russell Calhoun, who is her daughter, and who stands at the rear of the chairs. Mrs. Bracewell, in turn, is the daughter of M. G. Bennett, right, son of "Grandma" Emma Bennett. They all live in Almyra, and were present at a recent party honoring Mrs. Bennett—she is 96.

estimated at 8,000).

She said the railroad through Stuttgart was a narrow gauge road, with a boxcar serving as depot. And down in DeWitt, which was then the only county seat (Stuttgart is a county seat now, too), rains would make the now-paved square around the courthouse impassable.

Eldest son I. M. joined in at this point to recall that the family got mail at Prairieville, which was served by a star route twice weekly. Later they got their mail at Long Point.

But along came the year 1890—"Almyra suddenly grew up—for we had a postoffice," he declared.

The late Thomas K. Bennett was a member of the Arkansas Legislature in 1913 and 1915, and had served as a justice of the peace and road commissioner. Besides his farming activity, Grandma's husband also had been an auctioneer.

Grandma Bennett said that in her

late husband's early days, he prospected for gold in California and fought Indians out West.

The party in honor of the grand old lady of Arkansas county was in I. M.'s home. And from 2 until 5 p. m. that day an unending stream of old friends and acquaintances dropped in to pay tribute to smiling Grandma.

She was all dressed up in a new gray frock. She smiled at visitors from a huge bank of flowers that surrounded her. She even wore a beautiful corsage. Throughout the party session, Grandma kept smiling, recognizing scores of friends she hadn't seen for long periods.

Mrs. Emma Bennett is probably smiling as she reads this—if she's got that radio turned off long enough. She's an avid radio fan, a habit she has developed ever since she became a semi-invalid some time ago following a fall. She's confined to her bed most of the time now, but Grandma Bennett is still energetic as she enters into her 97th year of life.

PAGE FIVE

FROM THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

The following article was published in the Stuttgart (Ark.) *Daily Leader and Arkansawyer* of May 16, 1945, shortly after the German surrender to the Allies in World War II. Our servicemen and women were beginning to return home in large numbers. This interesting message to civilians could be applied to any era. —Ed.

Suggestions Given For Attitudes Toward Vets

The returning veteran is the hope of the nation. Generally speaking, he is that servant of the nation who will furnish the country's leadership in the years that lie ahead.

Twelve Simple Principles of Thought and Action for the Civilian:

1. Be natural at all times. Don't strain to appear nice or to say the right thing. Don't be effusive. Though changed, the veteran is still an ordinary human and wants to be treated as such. In fact, his service friendships have been such genuine ones and have been based on such conditions of reality that he can spot insincerity readily.

2. Treat him a responsible citizen, as well as a veteran. He has a tremendous job to do and will be one of the most important citizens in the community. Don't be patronizing. Recognize him for what he is, a citizen who is better equipped for success, as a result of his service experience, than most civilians.

3. Don't pamper him or feel or show pity. He's entitled to all the real consideration at your com-mand, but he's a man who has been taught to stand on his own feet.

4. Don't kill him with sympathy. He wants real help, not maudlin tears. Genuine kindness and a recognition of the job he has done form the basis of the ideal attitude for you to develop.

5. He'll talk about what he's been through if he wants to, but don't urge him. Like all of us, some veterans will want to talk, while others won't. Remember, if only one civilian were curious about what it was like, it would be one thing. So let him take the initiative in such conversations.

6. Keep your poise and don't be startled if he has changed markedly, is disfigured, disabled, or highly nervous. He knows you'll notice, so don't stare or call attention to it. If you feel you must men-tion it, or he brings it up, discuss it in as natural a way as possible.

7. Be realistic. If he wants to talk about his problems and the future, don't tell him that he doesn't need to worry. Tell him the facts about employment and other situations in the community, and advise him, if you can, on how to cope with them. This G. I. Bill gives him a lot of help, but he'll have to compete with civilians and other veterans for long-term success.

8. Develop serenity of spirit. This applies especially to those who are close to the veteran. He may have thought you are wonderful, so try to show your best colors.

9. Don't brag about how much money you've made or how well you've done while he was away. And if he's curious, tell him, but remember he may think, and rightly so in some cases, that the war has given the people who stayed at home an advantage.

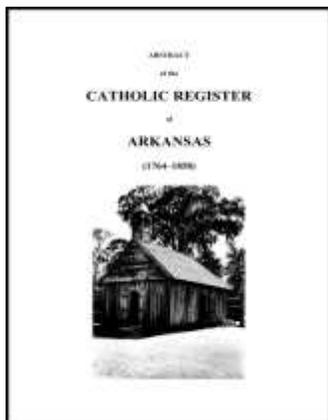
10. Don't bring up the subject of how difficult things have been at home. It hasn't been difficult and he knows it. It certainly would sound ironical to mention petty home-front hardships in the face of what he's been through. Just let him know most of us have done everything that we've been asked to do and have wanted to do more.

11. Help him in every way you can. Be sure he is aware of his rights, the opportunities to get an education, his priority on his old job, under certain circumstances, and other benefits. Help get your community organized to bring this information to him, and try to get veterans interested in participating.

12. Remember too, that you face problems of adjustment. Your non-war job may not pay as well, and it won't be as easy to get a job as it was. Furthermore, the veteran should have a prior right to any available job, because he has given up time and opportunity to fight for us. Your attitude and vigilance in this endeavor are of the utmost importance. It is vital that veterans and civilians understand each other and work together to build a better America.

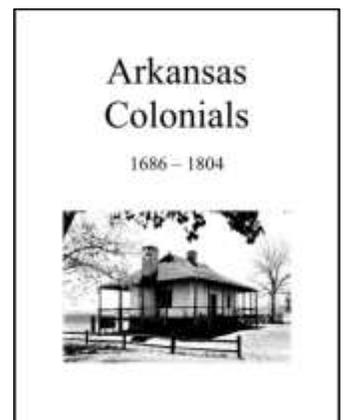


Following World War I, France wanted to show gratitude to the American people for their sacrifice in protecting French soil, so 49 French train cars were filled with gifts and sent to America. One train was sent to each of the 48 states, and the 49th was to be shared between Washington, D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. Arkansas's train car was sent to Helena, where it was displayed at the Richard L. Kitchens American Legion Post #41. Constructed in 1922, the building is one of Arkansas' oldest Legion posts. Thanks to the blog OnlyInArk.com for this information. Photo by G. Gerard.



Abstract of the Catholic Register of Arkansas 1764–1858, compiled by Dorothy Jones Core, is available from GPHS for \$25 postpaid. The 100-page book is an abstract of baptisms, marriages, and burials by Catholic priests in the Parish of Arkansas, including the only records kept during the Spanish era. Accurate translations by language professor Nicole Wable Hatfield. Originally published in 1976, this valuable indexed reference was long out of print. To order this newly reprinted edition, send \$25 to Raeann Braithwaite, Grand Prairie Historical Society, PO Box 15, Almyra, AR 72003.

Arkansas Colonials 1686–1804: A Collection of French and Spanish Records Listing Early Europeans in Arkansas, compiled by Morris S. Arnold and Dorothy Jones Core, is available from GPHS for \$25 postpaid. The 104-page book was published by the Society in 1986 and includes censuses, militia, and other civil records from Arkansas Post in the French and Spanish periods. The book includes maps and is surname indexed. To order this newly reprinted edition, send \$25 to Raeann Braithwaite, Grand Prairie Historical Society, PO Box 15, Almyra, AR 72003.



Have You Applied For Your Arkansas Ancestor Certificate?

The Arkansas Genealogical Society offers handsome Certificates of Arkansas Ancestry to qualified readers. Membership in AGS is not required. Everyone with early Arkansas roots is encouraged to apply. Visit the AGS website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org/ancestrycert/default.html> for instructions, fees, and downloadable application. Certificates are available for these categories:

Colonial—For an ancestor who resided in Arkansas prior to January 1, 1804.

Territorial—For an ancestor who resided in Arkansas prior to June 15, 1836.

Antebellum—For an ancestor who resided in Arkansas prior to May 6, 1861.

Civil War Ancestry—For an ancestor who served in a Confederate or Union Arkansas unit between 1861 and 1865, or applied for an Arkansas Confederate pension, or whose widow applied for a pension, or a Union soldier or soldier's widow who applied for a U.S. pension while living in Arkansas.

Nineteenth Century—For an ancestor who resided in Arkansas prior to December 31, 1900.

Email AskAGS@agsgenealogy.org with any questions.

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Do you want to participate in preserving and sharing Arkansas history and heritage for future generations? Join the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives and make a difference! FASA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2015, in order to support, promote, and strengthen the collections, services, and programs of the Arkansas State Archives. The group supports the Archives by encouraging volunteerism at the facility, raising funds to support acquisition of historical materials, and advocating to policymakers and public officials on behalf of the Archives. Members will receive the FASA newsletter, be eligible for early registration for ASA events, and be able to vote in the annual members' meeting. See <http://www.ararchivesfriends.org>.

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FASA is a 501(c) (3) organization. Your donations and membership are tax deductible.



District Champs 1952—Kneeling: bat boy Fred Hensieck, Richard Strabala, Francis Long, Earl Phifer, Duppie Davis, James Mitchell, Pete Newsome, Shorty Turner (coach). Standing: Chick Major (manager), Bob Galloway, Jimmy Moore, Red Earlywine, Clyde Berry, Walter Heien, Roger Strabala, Jim Bowie. *Courtesy of Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie.*



Clearpoint Eagles—Seated, front: Melvin Strabala, Francis Strabala. Seated, middle: Irving Strabala, Laverne Morris, Roy Earlywine, Richard Cunningham, Sherman Earlywine. Standing: Roger Strabala, Raymond Rudowske, Red Earlywine, Mike Spilker. Date unknown. *MAGP.*



Grand Prairie Historical Society recently lost one of the organization’s longest serving leaders. William Webster Hillman, 95, of Almyra passed away at his home November 21, 2018. He was born December 19, 1922 at Bayou Meto to Clinton and Gertrude Bridgland Hillman. He graduated from DeWitt High School in 1940. Webster was a World War II Army veteran and served as a military police officer in Japan. In August 1945 while in Japan, he guarded Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. Following his military service, Webster came back to Arkansas County and was an active farmer and community leader. He was a member of Almyra First Baptist Church and served as a deacon. His sister, longtime GPHS leader Ellen Hillman West, passed away last May. His brother George Hillman of Tulsa, Oklahoma is a Society member. Webster served 26 years as a Society director or officer. We are grateful for his long service to our organization.

Arkansas Historical Association’s 2019 Annual Conference, Stuttgart, April 11–13.
Please make plans to join us! Details to follow via email.

Grand Prairie Historical Society Meeting Schedule for 2019

April 18	6:00 p.m.	Gillett United Methodist Church
July 18	6:00 p.m.	DeWitt Veterans Memorial Building
October 17	6:00 p.m.	DeValls Bluff, site to be determined



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Don’t miss an issue of our e-newsletter! Email us at GrandPrairieHistory@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

Grand Prairie Historical Society

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