National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Announce Merger

In a historic move, the boards of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) have announced the intent to merge by October 1, 2020. The two organizations, both non-profit leaders in the dynamic genealogy industry, will form one consolidated group that will continue to operate as the National Genealogical Society. The announcement was made at the FGS conference in Washington, D.C. August 21.

Leaders of both organizations believe this merger will serve the genealogy community by improving support of both individual members and societies in the pursuit of genealogical excellence. Each group will have separate conventions in 2020, but will unite for a convention in 2021. FGS is set to meet in Kansas City in 2020, and NGS will meet in Salt Lake City.

The structure of NGS will be modified to increase functions that support genealogical societies and family organizations. Digitization projects of genealogical importance such as the War of 1812 pensions will continue.

Faye Stallings, President of FGS, said: “We are excited about this opportunity to combine with a premier organization that has been in operation since 1903.” Ben Spratling, President of NGS, said, “We look forward to continuing the strong legacy of FGS as a ‘gathering point’ for family historians and societies all across the nation.”
Coming Events

November 14, 2019
Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

November 25, 2019
Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, Publishing & Enjoying Your Genealogy Work, speaker Hank Klein, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

December 12, 2019
Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Program Meeting, 6 p.m., Legacy Room, Greene County Library, Paragould.

September 2-5, 2020
The FGS National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

KATV Archive: David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas in August made available the first collection of searchable digitized film and videotape from KATV, the ABC television affiliate in Little Rock, for online use. http://pryorcenter.uark.edu/project.php?thisProject=16

Genealogists often think of print or still photo resources when they set up research plans, but video collections are becoming more valuable every day in fleshing out the lives of ancestors. Video that shows how relatives looked and sounded will be especially useful for descendants and extended family members.

KATV began broadcasting in 1953 when news footage was captured on film. The station later transitioned to video. During nearly 70 broadcasting years, it amassed more than 26,000 hours of news footage from across the state and donated it to the PryorCenter in 2009. Digitization began in 2018. Former News Director Jim Pitcock created the KATV News archive. Original handwritten log sheets for the restored video files are available.

Searches for persons, places, events will likely be most common initially. The digitization and rollout of visual information is ongoing, and UA instructions say "please continue to check back frequently for new postings from this historical archive." As Executive Director William Schwab of the Pryor Center said, "I can't think of a single resource that will be more valuable to researchers, students, and anyone who wants to revisit Arkansas people and events from the past 60 years – and maybe even see themselves as part of those events."
Dr. Richter Arkansas State Archives Director and State Historian, retired after second stint in the position. Dr. Richter, who just finished chemotherapy and radiation, suffered a serious wreck in May. After careful though, Richter decided it was necessary to concentrate on her own health.

Under Dr. Richter’s second tenure, the archives increased their outreach efforts, have worked with several counties on preserving their records, and began a project to create a new website. Volunteer participation quadrupled and donations also increased 71 percent.

The donations included, the family papers of longtime Director Dr. John L. Ferguson and the United States Western District of Arkansas Court Records.

Dr. Richter, also began an update of the Arkansas State Archives research room. New Digital microfilm readers have already been introduced and soon the old will be retired. In the archives research room or at home, individuals will be able to enjoy a forthcoming upgrade of the Arkansas Digital Archives that will feature an initial 21,000 images and a website that will eventually enable research with more precision. They can also see grant funded digitized 100,000 plus Arkansas newspaper pages at https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.

Dr. Richter served as state historian and director of the Arkansas State Archives from 2005-2012, and 2018-2019. The primary archives facility is in Little Rock, with the Northeast Regional Archives (NEARA) in Powhatan and the Southwest Regional Archives (SARA) at Old Washington. She will be missed by all.

For now Julienne Crawford will serve as interim director.
AR GENEALOGY SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY WRITING

WORKSHOPS

In partnership with UA Little Rock’s Department of Rhetoric & Writing

All workshops are located at UA-Little Rock’s Writing Center from 1-4:30 PM

To register contact Sherry Rankins-Robertson at sjrobertson@ualr.edu

20 spots available in each workshop | $10 AGS registration fee per workshop

JUNE 29

Writing About Family Members, Places, and Events
This workshop will offer a writing activity about family members, places, or events, strategies for beginning the process of recording family stories, and practical tips to maintain daily writing practices. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

JULY 13

Celebrating Family and Food
This workshop will showcase writing about food-related memories and family celebrations. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop along with favorite family recipes!

AUG 17

Sharing Family History for Special Occasions
This workshop will teach participants to write stories that celebrate special occasions with family and friends such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

SEPT 07

Writing Obituaries
This workshop will demonstrate strategies for writing tributes that are interesting, engaging, and perhaps even humorous. Bring a pen & paper or a laptop.

OCT 05

Publishing Your Family History
This workshop will cover various kinds of cost-effective digital publishing methods that can easily reach a large audience.
Arkansas Genealogical Society
2019 Fall Seminar
Registration Form

October 18-19, 2019
Benton Events Center
17322 I-30 North Benton, AR

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: _____ Zip: ____________

email: ____________________________________________

Registration Fee
A syllabus is guaranteed for those registered by September 17

_____ $20 Friday Night Only
_____ $40 Saturday Only (includes a box lunch)
_____ $55 Friday & Saturday (includes Saturday’s box lunch)

_____ $25 (AGS Membership - New and Renewing)

_________ Total Enclosed

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