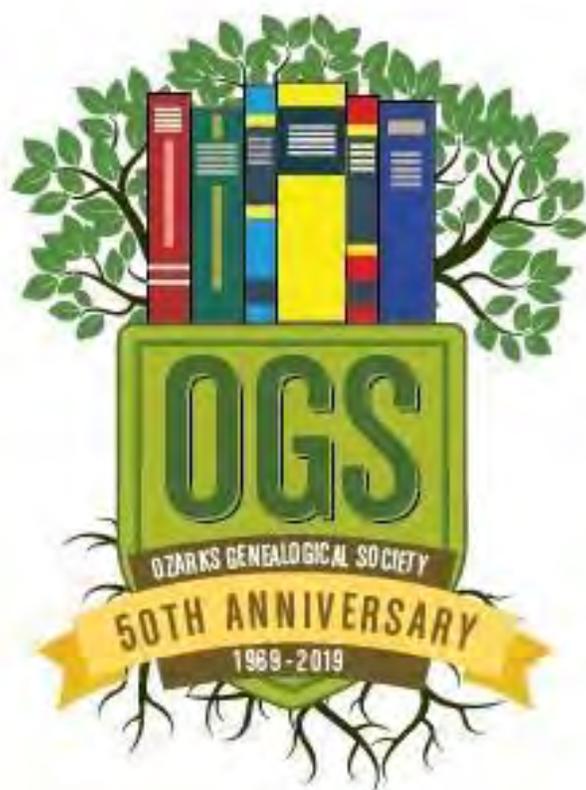


# *HISTORY of OGS 1969 - 2019*





*Gail Mitchell* (1942-2019)

*As an advocate for preservation  
of the history of the  
Ozarks Genealogical Society,  
she was our most dedicated ambassador.*

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## *Introduction*

Why write a history of the Ozarks Genealogical Society (OGS)?

- to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1969 - 2019
- to highlight the mission of OGS
- to recognize the founding members, the charter members and life members
- to develop and encourage membership
- to instill pride for what OGS has accomplished
- to bring awareness to those interested in family research

The history has been written many times by different members and presented at each anniversary celebration. On March 7, 2018, the Board approved the creation of a book celebrating the history of OGS. By compiling the ***History of OGS 1969 – 2019*** into one book, the history and accomplishments can be easily found. OGS has been committed to leaving a paper trail which is backed up by digital records.

Members were invited to assist and meetings were held once a month at the OGS Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of July, August, September, and October. At the first meeting, ideas and topics were discussed and plans were made. Those who attended other meetings searched through the newsletters and scrapbooks looking for dates and information for the timeline. The conversation, the memories and the stories inspired everyone.

A Special Thank You to all the members who attended the meetings, who provided personal information, who typed pages and lists, who researched names, and who offered words of encouragement.

I am not a writer. I have only compiled the ***History of OGS 1969-2019***. The history is being told by using the words of the previous members found in newsletters, minutes and committee reports. Pictures were gleaned from the scrapbooks. What has been included and what is not included has been my decision. The format is based on the Mission Statement as shown on the OGS website and in the By-Laws. Everything and everyone is not included because there are not enough pages to give proper recognition to each and every member. It is longer than originally planned.

The ***History of OGS 1969 – 2019*** identifies the many accomplishments made by members volunteering their time and their money to enhance the mission statement.

Gail Ferguson Mitchell  
Chair, Special Committee for researching  
and compiling the history of OGS  
March 19, 2019

## *Acknowledgements & Resources*

The creation of the ***HISTORY OF OGS 1969-2019*** is made possible through the stories, memories, and dedication of many OGS members. It is impossible to name everyone involved:

Frances Black, Brenda Carter, John Carter, Linda Chesebro, Jody Clifton, Turner Collins, Micki Dischinger, Connie Daughtrey, Edith Flippo, Fannie Frank, Glenn Gohr, Bettie Hickman, Barbara Jensen, Rose Jones, J. D. McMillen, Melba Rector, John Rutherford, Carla Sagrillo, Tiffany Mims-Thomas, Rita Wallace, Rick Webb, Doris Wilson and all the many members who joined OGS and who volunteered beyond membership.

Thank You.

## *Resources*

The following resources are in the OGS Library stored in files, in books on the shelves, or digitized and posted on the OGS computers.

- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Conference Syllabus
- Conversations with members
- Scrapbooks

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## HISTORY of OGS

### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

*Starting with this newsletter, we will be featuring some of the history of OGS to highlight the twenty-fifth year of our existence. This month Garner Phillips, one of the founding members, tells of the gestation period—before officers, before dues, before minutes.*

During the middle sixties in Springfield many of us became involved in searching our heritage. It was hard to know where to start or how to proceed. The public library seemed the logical place to begin. The staff guided us to the “how-to” books. It was slow going, plodding through pages, often finding nothing relevant to our individual families. However, we began to discover others in the local history room who were often a step ahead of us in their knowledge of procedure. They were eager to share their expertise with the novices, and soon we were learning how to search newspapers, read censuses on microfilm, and write away for information. One thing led to another, the discovery of a mutual line, or geographical area. In the process, we became acquainted with others who shared this common interest.

Lena Wills was editing a query column for the local paper. She had a big heart, a big glassed-in back porch, a big genealogical library and a big coffee pot. Often, she would invite the family-tracing neophytes to her home where she inspired and guided us into successful research and, by example, stressed the importance of careful documentation and record keeping.

Then came the happy announcement! Drury College was offering a non-credit course in beginning genealogy. It was taught by Professor Allen Humphries. University of Arkansas, and proved a bargain for six dollars and six weeks

Excited and highly motivated by our learning experience, eight or nine of us decided to meet informally, sharing our homes, our coffee and coffee cakes, and our discoveries. Soon, it became apparent that we could do more, and help each other more, if we were more formally organized. Although no one felt knowledgeable enough to take the leadership, we drafted Dorothea Owen to be president.

Realizing most of us had lines tracing back to Tennessee and Virginia, we pooled our resources to purchase materials from there. We collected fifteen dollars to buy Virginia marriage records priced at five dollars a volume. We explained we were a new group and could afford only three volumes just then but would order more later. We received the entire set! The eighty year-old genealogist in Virginia wrote she trusted us, and knew she would receive her money later, and of course, she did.

There was a short article in the *Springfield Daily News* announcing the formation of the group, now calling itself the Genealogy Club. The names listed in the article were Mrs. Glen Adams, Ralph Wills, E.W. Milner, Stanley Owen, L.L. Wade, Clyde Fishel, Jr. and Mark Phillips. Others were invited to join. Soon we were too many to meet in most homes. We met at least once in Phelps Grove Park, where an Indiana guest let her car roll out into the street. We did not think big in those days--dues were a quarter, and postage was six cents. In the beginning, we had no prophetic vision of the Ozarks Genealogical Society as it is today.

Garner Phillips

### THE RACE IS ON!

The CCA list attached to the Newsletter is for your refrigerator. It lists proofs of purchase and bonus points only. Most sponsors also give 100 regular points for each dollar spent. Pick up CCA books at our library or the Shepard Room for more details. Read the book very carefully--there's a lot to watch for!

We need people to listen to My Country 100.5 all day Thursdays and to KGBX 105.9 on Fridays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please volunteer! More volunteers mean less listening time for each. There'll be song lists on the Fundraising board each week. The lists can't be typed. The writing and signature must be the same. Pick up the *Thrifty Nickel* for CCA news. Our first tum-in is 1 March.

We can use Campbell Soup labels for both CCA and the public library, so turn in all Campbell labels to OGS first. Remember. 100% of CCA money goes toward buying books.

Grace Anderson  
Fund-raising Chairman

This page of information was found in the 1969 – 1984 Scrapbook. The articles were from the Springfield newspaper, *Leader-Press*.

THE BEGINNING OF THE OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

## Group Forms Genealogy Club

Mrs. Ralph Wills, 635 East Bennett, was hostess last week to a group interested in forming a genealogy society in Springfield.

Mrs. Norval Box, who helped organize a genealogical society in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, assisted with plans for formation of the local club. She presented material from her collection which proved helpful to the group during a study session. Others attending the meeting brought materials which they had collected since attending a Drury College class concerning the family tree, instructed by Allen Humphries.

The group will hold meetings once each month, and anyone interested in working with it may call 881-7879 or 881-2170 for further information.

Others attending the meeting were Mesdames Glenn Adams, E. W. Milner, Clyde Fishel, Jr., L. L. Wade, Stanley Owen, and Mark Phillips.

Leader-Press  
Oct. 23, 1968

## Genealogy Club Begins Meetings

Eight members of the newly organized genealogical group met Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Clyde Fishel, Jr., 3159 Alpine Drive, for coffee and an organizational meeting.

Mrs. Stanley Owen was elected president. Program ideas were discussed and a system of sharing of records, films and books was started. Future meetings are planned for the public library, where facilities, helps and aids will be explained. It is hoped that a meeting can soon be held at the courthouse to study probate procedures and recording of deeds.

Anyone interested in genealogy is cordially invited to join the group. Details may be obtained by calling the president, Mrs. Owen, TU 1-2170.

Members attending the meeting were: Mesdames Bob Barr, Bryan Owen, Glenn Adams, Edward Bousman, Lewis A. Delano, Stanley Owen, Bernard Bellmann and Mark Phillips.

WANTED ????

DATE & NAME  
OF PAPER

Monday  
Nov-25, 1968

EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES OF THE MEETING WED. SEPT. 17, 1969 when the Genealogy Club became the OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of Springfield, Mo.

"The regular meeting of the Genealogical Society was held at 9:30 a.m. Wed. Sep. 17 1969, at the Farm and Home Bldg, 1605 E. Sunshine. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Mrs. Stanley Owen.

NEW BUSINESS included the election of officers for the club. The following were chosen to serve for one year: President, Mrs. Stanley Owen; V. Pres., Mrs. Edward Bouseman; Sec'y., Mrs. Glenn Adams; Treas; Mrs. Bernard Bellmann.

It was decided the name of the club would be "THE OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD." Meetings are to be held the third Wed. each month, 9:30 A.M. at designated places. Workshops at the Library may be held between regular meetings.

The club year will be September through June. Dues will be \$1.00 for membership plus 25¢ per month. The Society will immediately join the National Genealogical Society. The membership will be held open for a short time for charter members. Pink pedigree sheets are to be turned in to Mrs. Ralph Wills to be placed in a file at the Springfield Public Library. Mrs. Ralph Wills will report the meetings to the Springfield Newspaper. The next meeting will be Oct 15, at the Farm & Home Savings and Loan Building Community Room, 1605 E. Sunshine. Meeting adjourned. Thirteen members and guests were present.

From the Secy's Minutes. The first mention of the "OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY." Sept 17, 1969

## Genealogy Group Elects Officers

During a meeting Wednesday morning of the Ozark Genealogical Society, held at the Farm and Home Savings Association building, 1650 East Sunshine, new officers for the coming year were elected. They are: Mrs. Stanley Owen, president; Mrs. Edward Bousman, vice president; Mrs. Glen A. Adams, secretary; Mrs. B. R. Bellmann, treasurer.

Mrs. Owen presented a talk on source material and welcomed new members.

Next meeting will be held October 15 at 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested in genealogical work is invited to attend.

Leader- Press  
Monday Sept. 22, 1969

# Founders of the Ozarks Genealogical Society

Attended First Business Meeting September 17, 1969

## **Mrs. Mary E. Adams (Glenn)**

Founder and Charter Member  
Secretary September 1969

## **Mrs. Laura Milner (E.W.)**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Mrs. Emily Barr (Bob)**

(Bob Barr is a Life Member)  
Founder and Charter Member  
Member as of September 1971  
Life Member  
President 1976-1978

## **Mrs. Charles Obrock**

Founder

## **Mrs. Dorothea Owen (Stanley)**

Founder and Charter Member  
President 1969 -1971

## **Mrs. Joan Bellmann (Bernard)**

Founder and Charter Member  
Treasurer, September 1969

## **Mrs. Stella Visio (George)**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Gladys Bishop**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Mrs. Beverly Wade (Lester)**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Mrs. Lea Bousman (Edward)**

Founder and Charter Member  
Program Chair 1969

## **Mrs. Inez West (Mac G)**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Mrs. Irene Kanute (Harold)**

Founder and Charter Member

## **Mrs. Lena Wills (Ralph)**

Founder and Charter Member  
President 1973-1974  
Wrote Genealogy Column in newspaper

## The way we were 1969-1976

On 17 September, 1969 "The Ladies of the Club" became "The Ozarks Genealogical Society of Springfield." Officers were elected, and dues were set at one dollar per year plus twenty-five cents per month. There were thirteen members present on that organizational day, and charter membership grew to thirty-four during the first year. (Nine are still members, four are active members.) Dorothea Owen served as president during the first two years, followed by Frances Curry, 1971-73; Lena Wills, 1973-74; and Mary Woody, 1974-76. Other officers serving in those formative years included such familiar names as Emily Bair, Vera Wood, Dorothy Mahan, Mary Adams, Gloria Scott, Barbara Grantham, and Mary Ellen Higginbotham.

Purposeful! Focused! From the very first the members dedicated their resources to buying books, periodicals and microfilm. In the second year the dues were increased to four dollars, but individuals continued to donate money toward specific purchases. For example, when the group had collected sufficient funds to purchase marriage bond books for eleven Virginia counties, Dorothea Owen and Betty Ammerman each bought a book for an additional county (January 1971). All these materials were kept in homes and carried to and from meetings for several years. Frances Curry was the first microfilm chairman, storing the film in her home. It was not until July, 1972 that permission was granted to store a box of periodicals at the public library, and it was October, 1974 when arrangements were made to keep our books there. It was the following year when our first librarians were appointed-Inabell Williams and Mary Cunningham.

Meetings were eventually held at the Springfield-Greene County Library, and attendance gradually increased. It wasn't exclusively a group of women for very long! Among those presenting programs in the early years were Charles Sheppard, William L. Wood, and Paul Barker. And the Society's outreach grew; there was considerable interest in publishing a quarterly bulletin. By 1974 Lena Wills, Mary Woody and others were abstracting records at the Greene County Courthouse and Betty Ammerman had

agreed to receive and process such materials. Extra money for book purchases and society projects came from scrap paper sales, coordinated at various times by Barbara Grantham, Emily Barr, and (later) Leon White.

The 1975-76 year began with a workshop, a Ron Bremer Seminar, and culminated with a Bicentennial project. The latter was chaired by Melba Rector, who enlisted the aid of Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls to encourage young people to fill out genealogy charts.

In O.G.S.' first seven years enthusiastic members accomplished remarkable things. They built the foundation for the excellent genealogical library in which we take such pride today. Traditions were forming. The meetings very quickly settled into a pattern of two Wednesdays per month, one a regular business session followed by a program, the other a workshop meeting for sharing information. From an early date materials were donated to the public library. There was even a lunch group at the Heritage Cafeteria.

Our founders established the pattern for an enlightened and vigorous working society. And that's "The Way We Were" in 1976!

Mary Ellen Gilford  
Past President



### Fund raising

Are we still saving Smitty's?                    Yes!  
Are we still saving Best Choice?                Yes!  
Are we still saving TV-Marques-Rainbow? Yes!

These fund-raising projects are ongoing and separate from the Community Club Awards. Submit Smitty's receipts dated from 1 October 1993 to 1 October 1994. Save labels and boxes from Best Choice, TV, Marquee, and Rainbow products. These are good moneymakers for us. REMEMBER-all proceeds from our fund-raising projects are used to purchase library books and microform.

Grace            Anderson.  
Chairman        Fund-

## The Way We Were

1981-1987

Melba Rector was 1981 -82 president, with other officers Linda Jones, Earl Stephenson, Frances Daniel, Bettie Hickman. Hazel Voris, Marsha Rising, and John Carr. Linda, Bettie, and Earl served again in 82-83; new officers were Evelyn Looney and Della Catlett. Melba appointed Frances Daniel and Bettie Hickman to develop a policy manual and Charles Sheppard to act as our official agent.

The first Fall Workshop was held on 17 October 1981. *Unto These Hills* featured principal speaker Betty Harvey. Success assured Fall Workshops would become annual events. Other high points were the first OGS sponsored genealogy classes, the first time our books were placed on the public library's open shelves, and the first time our books could be checked out at night. September 1981 marked the first annual memorial observance. OGS member the Reverend Mr. Calvin Mayberry spoke. A 1982 program was *Computers for Genealogy*. What a bizarre concept!

Linda Jones served as 1983 president, the first of two terms. Also on the board in 83-84 were Connie Rogers, Evelyn Looney, Marie Murphy, Maxine Dunaway, Hazle Tyler, Earl Stephenson, and Hazel Voris--also the first two delegates-at-large-Dora Miller and Mary Swann. Serving again in 84-85 were Earl, Hazel V., and Hazle T. New officers were Adell Smith, Willene Dernehl, and Louise Hull. Frances Daniel was the *Newsletter's* new editor.

In 1983 OGS prepared a traveling exhibit for Greene County's Sesquicentennial. Committee members were Greene County natives Hollis Brower, Imogene Bennett, Marion Dcmore, Mildred Dodd, Bonnie Shaw, and Charles Sheppard. The exhibit's centerpiece was a replica of the 1833 Greene county tax list created by Bonnie Shaw. CCA competition earned \$540.00. OGS members donated \$1062.50 to the public library for microfilm purchases, including \$710.00 for the 1910 Missouri census.

OGS joined the Heritage Council in 1984, and in April 1985 took our first research trip to the Missouri State Library, Columbia. The society accepted Madge

Vanderheide's Papers, which a Special Collections Committee worked six months to process. The Research Committee launched a project to record tombstone inscriptions for all Greene County cemeteries. Night Workshop celebrated its fifth anniversary with an August picnic—a first annual all-society event. Hard-working committees produced and marketed publications and raised other funds, enabling us to purchase new materials. New books necessitated storing older books; our collection had outgrown allotted space at the public library.

Hazel Voris. 1985-87 president, faced space problems as her first challenge: books stored in the Stephenson's garage, publications-for-sale at the Kelleys. *Ozar'kin* stock at the Woods, miscellaneous material in other homes, *Ozar'kin* collation and mailing in homes or churches, and Night Workshop at Schweitzer Methodist. Hazel appointed a committee to find work/storage space. In March 1986 OGS rented a three-room suite in the Wilhoit Building, where we could house the overflow library, hold small-group meetings, and process publications. Members donated furnishings and money for shelving, and the new OGS Center was set up by Grace Anderson, Della Catlett, John Carr, and numerous helpers.

The Society lost two very special members in a short period. Founding member Lena Wills died on 17 October 1986: for many years she'd edited the newspapers' genealogy column, and her name was synonymous with the word *genealogy*. Paul Moser, self-taught Missouri locality expert, died on 5 May 1987.

Serving with Hazel Voris in 1985-86 were Maty Swann, Betty Ammerman. Louise Hull. Hazle Tyler, Doug Corbin, Fannie Frank, Marcella Roberts, and Irene Redfean. Betty, Doug, Fannie, and Marcella served again in 86-87, with new officers Mary Ellen Gifford, Bess Scott, Earl Stephenson, and Dora Miller. Marsha Rising was *Ozar'kin* editor, and Juanita Blankenship, *Newsletter* editor. And that's *The Way We Were* in 1987!

Mary Ellen Gifford  
Past President

## The Way We Were 1987-1993

Mary Ellen Gilford was OGS president in 1987-89. Other officers were Rosemary Bane, Doug Corbin, Fannie Frank, Bettie Hickman, Ann Hollen, Barbara Jensen, Bess Scott, and Earl Stephenson. Rosemary, Doug, Barbara, and Bess served also in 88-89, as did new officers Mary Swann and Hazle Tyler. The 1987-88 year began routinely; but in less than a month we were negotiating to buy a building--a neat brick church in a central location. OGS members circulated petitions in December snows, attended several City Council zoning sessions, and donated \$25,000 toward the purchase price. They put their money where their vision was! Combined with savings, we needed only a \$10,000 loan. We moved into our very own OGS Library on 5 March 1988. We observed our twentieth anniversary year in 1988-89 by awarding lapel pins with a 20/20 logo to all members who completed a minimum twenty hours of volunteer service. The first recipient was Marian Demote, and over a hundred others received 20/20 pins. At the annual Spring Dinner the OGS charter members were the guests of honor.

Adell Smith was at the helm in 1989-91. Other board members during the first year were Jo Ann Clifton, Bess Scott, Mary Swann, Patsy McHaffie, Robert Gates, and Doug Corbin. Jo Ann, Patsy, and Doug saved again in 90-91, along with newly-elected officers Belly Ammerman, Alvra Reynolds, and Frances Curry.

Melba Rector assumed the editorship of *OZAR'KIN* in 1990. Flowers, balloons, and a special cake set the tone for a great day of celebration on 28 October 1990 when Adell burned the mortgage on our library. We also celebrated the gaining of a cherished goal--one thousand subscriptions to *OZAR'KIN*. Pauline Webb indexed the many ancestor charts and placed a copy in the library. Dr. William Hall presented his collection of Springfield newspaper clippings, 1939-1978. Earl Stephenson completed the index cards for six thousand Southwest Missouri cemeteries. And publisher William Yates brought twenty-eight boxes of books on indefinite loan. The annual research bus trip had on out-of-state destination for the first time--a five day trip to the Allen County-Fort Wayne Public Library.

Jo Ann Clifton (known to us as Jody) was installed in 1991 as fourteenth OGS president. Serving with her were Joy Hyde, Betty Ammerman, Sheila Forester, Patsy McHaffie, Frances Curry, and Doug Corbin. Jody served a second term, as did Betty, Frances, and Doug. Newly elected in 92-93 were Margaret Maulin, Ann Walka, and Betty Turk. Library space was once again a problem. More shelving was built at the OGS Library, and the public library allotted us eighteen linear feet more shelf space. The public library included our Shepard Room books when a security system was installed. The National Genealogical Society proclaimed 1993 as *The Year of the Volunteer*. OGS could describe every year in that manna! Jody began her term of office by naming chairmen of the twenty-six committees by whom the work of this society would be done, and as usual these were fruitful years. Bury! Involved! Dedicated! That's *The way we were* in 1993!

Mary Ellen  
Gifford  
Past  
Preside



### Keys to Success

Our fourteenth Fall Conference, featuring nationally known speaker Elizabeth Shown Mills, will be held at the Holiday Inn, University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, Missouri. Pre-registration is encouraged! Dates are 16-17 September 1994. The topics Mrs. Mills will be presenting are very timely and will help hobbyists as well as professionals with the 'tricks of the trade.'

The session on **genealogical problem solving** will help us 'learn effective methodology for using common records and advanced techniques for correlating evidence.' Are you familiar with the wide variety of land records genealogists should be using? Mills' session on **solving genealogical problems' with land records** will examine at least fourteen different types. Her other topics will include valuable information on **locating that lost "Father"** and **Northeastern migration into the Lower South**.

(See page 2 for Mini-Sessions)

# OGS 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A Proud Past

A Promising Future 1969 -1999



Past Presidents were honored and a Proclamation was presented by City Councilman Bob Chancellor.



**Past Presidents:** Patsy McHaffie, Mary Ellen Gifford, Hazel Voris, Bea Brown, Emily Barr  
Frances Curry, Lynn Shelley, Jody Clifton, Melba Rector, Mary Woody, Adell Smith, Lucy Ortnier.



The committee wished to leave a legacy that would be a lasting memory of the 30 years of successful progress. The group put their ideas together for the design of a banner. Alma Edmonds then took it one step further by handcrafting the banner. It incorporates the OGS logo designed many years ago by Vera Wood. The banner was presented at the dinner and is now hanging on the south wall of the OGS Library.



### March 19, 1999 Spring Dinner

Celebrate 30 years - **A Proud Past – a Promising Future**

Mid America Cancer Center on Fremont Street

OGS Banner 1969-1999 Wall hanging made by Alma Edmonds was displayed. Speaker: Musical Program with Wayne Glenn, "The Old Record Collector" plus a Fashion Show featuring the styles of 30 years ago.

### Tree Planting Ceremony

As part of the 30th Anniversary Committee's plans, your support is needed in donations to purchase a dogwood tree. This tree will be planted on the west side of our library in a ceremony this fall commemorating OGS's 30th birthday.

For your donation (one dollar or more) you will receive a button signifying the society's establishment in 1969. Volunteers will be happy to take your donation and provide you with a button at our business meetings, workshop meetings or at the OGS Library during regular library hours. Additional funds exceeding the purchase of the dogwood tree will be used to beautify the west side of our library.



### Anniversary

"OGS will hold an open house from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Ozarks Genealogical Society Library on Sunday, September 26. This open house will finish a year of celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the year, special events have been held to recognize the accomplishments achieved by the work of so many members. At a special ceremony to be held at 2:30 p.m., a dogwood tree will be dedicated to help commemorate this anniversary. Also, we are planning to improve the library landscape through generous contributions made in the memory of James O. Elliott and William H. Kincaid".

– Mollie Molnar

### Invitation

## THIRTY YEARS OF OGS SUCCESS

A Proud Past - A Promising Future. How fitting for an organization that conquered a beginning from a few ladies meeting in homes to a first-class society of over 550 members.

The middle sixties found many of us developing an interest in our heritage. In November 1963, an 8-week class on Tracing Your Family Tree was held at Drury College and this was probably the first beginnings for genealogy in Springfield. Following these classes 8 or 9 of the attendees began meeting in homes to share their research.

Soon it was apparent that enough interest was there to meet in a formal setting. Everyone was too unsure of the subject to assume the leadership, so Dorothea Owen was drafted as chairman.

The group was called the Genealogy Club and the Springfield Daily News stated "others were invited to attend." Soon there were too many to meet in most homes. Many probably thought it was the best deal in town because dues were a quarter!

The first written minutes for the forming of our society were recorded on September 17, 1969 at 9:30 am at the Farm & Borne Building on East Sunshine. The meeting was presided over by Dorothea Owen. New Business included the election of officers for the club and those chosen to serve for one year were: President - Dorothea Owen; Vice President & Program Chairman - Edward Bouseman; Secretary - Mrs. Glenn Adams; and Treasurer - Mrs. Bernard Bellmann. The club would be known as "THE OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD." Meetings were to be held the third Wednesday each month at 9:30 am at a designated place. The club year was to be September through June, with dues at \$1.00 for members plus 25 cents per month. Membership was to be held open for a short time for charter members. It is now considered there were 35 charter members during this September 1969 to September 1970 time period.

Dorothea Owen continued as president the second year. Dues were increased to \$4 but donations from members continued to help obtain specific purchases. Books were kept in homes and carried to and from meetings for several years.

Frances Curry served as president in 1971-73. OGS presented the Springfield Greene County Public Library the microfilm for the 1830 Tennessee census.

In July 1972, Springfield Public Library granted OGS permission to store a box of periodicals there and in October 1974 arrangements were made to keep our books in storage there. The following year our first librarians were appointed - Inabelle Williams and Mary Cunningham.

Attendance was increasing and meetings were held at the Springfield-Greene County Library.

Tons of newspapers were saved and brought to workshop sessions on the 4th Wednesday. They were sold in order to help the OGS treasury.

Lena Wills served as president for one year during 1973-1974. She is especially remembered for the Genealogy column she edited for 17 years which ran in the Springfield newspaper and the classes she taught in her home.

From 1974-1976 Mary Woody was OGS president. A tree generation

chart was designed and used with 4-H groups, scout troops and a few elementary grade school classes.

For the Bicentennial year, a moveable genealogical educational display was created and Hollis Brower set it up and moved it often for several different functions around Springfield.

During Emily Barr's presidency in 1976-1978, the "Before 1850 Project" Committee was created to research, create and preserve the records of forefathers who settled in Greene County before 1850.

CCA was a big money-raising project at this time for OGS and because of this, most society members sported KTTS stickers in their cars.

The first Newsletter was published in 1978 as a Christmas gift to the membership from president, Ralph Shaw, society board members realized the need for establishing a newsletter and Connie Rogers was appointed the first editor.

The first Bylaws created an agreed-upon operating basis rather than an assortment of individual opinions and were approved in June 1979.

The vast quantity of material collected by the "Before 1850 Project" became the needed element to start our quarterly, OZAR'KIN. The Publication Committee began publishing Ozar'kin and the First edition copies were released in June 1979. The first two editions were sesquicentennial collector's editions that dealt with Greene County families prior to 1850. Most of the 180 members were involved and for 7 years, collating was done in the home of Bob and Emily Barr. Subscriptions were \$6 per year.

The function of the Library Group was to keep the books in maximum circulation among the members. Money donations from members helped purchase books and to contribute to Springfield-Greene County Library to help buy the 1900 US Census microfilm. Books could be exchanged on Wednesday mornings and all day on Saturday. They were kept in locked shelves for protection and control.

In 1979, Mildred Dodd was elected president but was forced to resign due to health problems in December 1980. Bea Brown was elected to finish the term.

OGS became officially incorporated on December 20, 1979. Associate and life memberships went into effect, a post office box was rented and the night workshop was approved. Ozar'kin subscriptions had grown to 514. OGS received not-for-profit status on May 1, 1980. Membership dues increased from \$3 to \$10 with a \$5 registration fee. Plans were being made for the first workshop featuring a guest speaker. Bea donated, an engraved gavel that is still passed on to each incoming president.

Under Melba Rector's presidency in 1981-1983, the Policy Manual was developed. The first workshop (now Fall Conference) was held. The pre-registration fee was \$10 and included lunch, a 44-page sourcebook, and 4 mini-sessions. 245 were in attendance. OGS-sponsored genealogy classes began, our books were placed on open shelves in the public library and at last our books could be checked out. September 1981 was the beginning of our annual memorial observance and the first of our traditional research trips which was to the State Historical Society of Missouri Library in Columbia.

There were 858 books and 157 rolls of microfilm in our library shelved on the 3rd floor of the Main Library.

Linda Jones was president in 1983-1985. The Bylaws were revised and OGS voted to join The Heritage Council.

in 1985-1987 a new president. Hazel Voris met challenges head-on. Space problems loomed. Books, publications, and Ozar'kin issues were stored at various homes of members. Meetings and society work events were meeting here and there. In March 1986, the Executive Council presented to the membership a recommendation that OGS lease Suite B in the Wilhoit Building for one year. The motion carried. Another motion that OGS assume the responsibility of providing adequate storage for materials now stored in private homes also carried. The new name for Suite B was OGS CENTER and Open House was held on May 31, 1986 at 322 Pershing Street. 62 individuals had donated time, items, or money for furnishings for the center.

In 1986, Ozar'kin subscribers had grown to 500 and The Ozarks Migration Card Project began.

Mary Ellen Gifford became our leader in 1987-1989. Negotiations to buy our present OGS Library began in her first month of presidency, with the strong courage and work ethic of all the volunteers, on March 5, 1988, the dream became a reality. We moved into our own facility.

Adell Smith was the lucky president in 1989-1991. A special celebration on October 28, 1990 set the scene when Adell burned the mortgage on our library.

Ozar'kin reached their goal of 1,000 subscribers. Many ancestor charts were indexed; Dr. Hall's 1939-1978 Springfield newspaper clippings collection was presented to us; 6,000 southwest MO cemeteries index cards were completed, and 28 boxes of the Yates Collection was brought to the library by Wm. Yates on indefinite loan.

Volunteers continued their diligent work as President Jody Clifton appointed 26 committee chairmen as her term began in 1991. Space was still a problem so more shelving was added at the OGS Library and we gained 18 linear feet in the Shepard Room.

The purchase of North Carolina Records, 1st Series and the 1900 MO Soundex and the 1910 Miracode and 1920 MO Soundex was added to our collection. A generous member donated a microfilm reader/printer and a microfiche reader.

Barbara Jensen was our president when the society's twenty-fifth year of existence arrived in September 1993. The membership voted to sponsor the donation of a copy of ROOTS FOR KIDS to every grade school in the Springfield school district. This was such a popular project, close to 60 members purchased and donated a book to schools in Greene County and surrounding counties.

The Computer interest Group became a full functioning separate committee.

Doug Corbin had been our librarian for eight years and we had over 4,000 books, hundreds of microforms, periodicals, and information files.

The Publication List included over seventy books and Grace Anderson and her fund raising committee continued to provide a source

of money for library purchases mainly from CCA and Smitty's Hand In Hand.

The Book Committee challenged us to provide 30 or more hours of volunteer service in return for the right to choose a book to be purchased for the library.

The membership unanimously approved the motion for OGS to participate in "The Library Comes to You Electronically" Project. For many of us the Internet was still an unknown but through ORION, OGS schedules and publications were available all over the world.

Due to the increased volume of mail, in 1998 a larger post office box was obtained but the original box kept to insure we would not miss receiving any mail.

1995-1997 Luci Ortner was at the helm. The fiscal year 1995 had 5,581 people registered when entering the OGS Library.

The Long Range Planning Committee spent hours discussing the best utilization of space. The stage was converted into our office space complete with shelves and mailboxes, the large storage cabinet was moved behind the desk for convenience and the Microfilm/Microfiche Reading Center was relocated to the northwest corner of the Library.

The Book Repair Project began and the Board agreed that OGS be a sponsor for the Civil War Soldiers System.

Special publications acquired or added 39 new titles to our OGS Publications LIST which now totals 133,

OGS obtained an E-mail address and Hayward Barnett was appointed as E-mail contact person to forward messages to the appropriate party. The OGS webpage was transferred to Rootsweb server while maintaining a link to ORION.

A complete property inventory of the contents of the OGS Library building (excluding books) along with photographs was completed by Library Building Manager, Earl Stephenson with the help of the Records and Space committee.

Card catalogues for the book collections are soon to become a thing of the past when the Board approved OGS to become a part of Springfield-Greene County Library's computer system, then known as DYNEX.

October 1997 began the first days of my presidency, the anniversary of our 10th year in our library at 534 w. Catalpa and OZAR'KIN was celebrating its 20th year of publication.

The library became technology literate on Feb 5, 1998 when our library collection of over 5,200 books became available through the Springfield-Greene County Library computer catalogue, now called III (Innovative interfaces Incorporated). To coincide with the catalogue, the books in our library were relabeled and reshelfed according to the listings in our book list.

The Bylaws Revision Committee brought our bylaws in compliance with suggestions in the 1996 Federation of Genealogical Societies Bylaws workbook and The Chicago Manual of Style. Upon their approval in October 1998, library volunteers, outreach, and space management became standing committees.

The Policies & Procedures Manuals were brought up to date and job descriptions are being revised to make smooth transitions for officers and committee chairs.

The purchase committee made recommendations for requested purchases of equipment for the OGS Library. The end result of this

committee's work are the new library chairs, an overhead projector, an LCD panel, and a microfilm/microfiche reader/printer.

With the purchase of the Payless Cashways building by Springfield-Greene County Library, OGS became involved because of our book collection in the Shepard Room. With the genealogy and history collections to be included in the move to the new facility, a preliminary proposal from OGS was submitted to Annie Busch on June 29, 1998 regarding our books shelved there. The new facility will be called "The Library Center" and work is in progress on the building with the expected move to be this fall. OGS is represented by the president as a member of their Patron Advisory Panel that meets quarterly.

The Anniversary Committee organized a fund raiser that began a beautification project for the west side of the OGS Library grounds, in return for a minimum donation of \$1 (but naturally larger bills was accepted) the donor will receive a lapel button for commemoration of our 30th anniversary. The fund is to be used to purchase a dogwood tree that will be planted on the west side of the OGS Library grounds in a ceremony scheduled for this fall. Funds that exceed the amount needed to purchase the dogwood tree will be used for additional landscaping that will be easy to care for, yet add to the attractiveness of our library.

The past thirty years has had its ups and downs but our volunteers have always come through with a direction of satisfaction to wither the rough spots and rejoice at the highs.

We as volunteers care about where the future will take us. The loyalty and fortitude of those who served to build the foundation of our society, and the continued hard work of the volunteers who followed, makes us one of the finest genealogical societies in the United States. The energies of volunteers that have been put forth during the past 30 years will not be in vain. As the millennium draws closer, many changes in technology will force us to adapt in order to stay abreast with the rest of the world. More emphasis will need to be put in the direction of the web site to get the word out about our society and its progress in helping the researchers.

Praises go to each of you who have had a part in reaching this 30th anniversary. With such a Proud Past how can we have anything but A Promising Future.

Written & presented at the 1999 OGS Spring Dinner  
by Patsy L. McHaffie, OGS President

## **TIMELINE 1969 – 2019**

The following Timeline has been created from previous OGS timelines, from members, from newsletters, from minutes and from the scrapbooks. Pictures of the OGS Presidents have been framed and are on the wall of the OGS Library. Some pictures are included in the Timeline.

### **President 1969 - 1971 Dorothea Owen**

Founder and Charter Member

#### **September 17, 1969**

Thirteen members were in attendance at the first meeting. Future meeting dates were set and the following officers were elected: President, Vice President, secretary, and treasurer. Dues were established at \$1 plus 25 cents per month and meetings were held at Farm & Home on Sunshine from September 1969 – May 1970.

#### **October 1969**

The first program at an OGS meeting was given by Miss Alice Boone.

#### **November 1969**

Charter member Lena Wills started a genealogy column in Springfield's newspaper.

#### **December 1969**

The purchase of some census records on microfilm was approved and pedigree charts were ordered.

#### **1970**

Charter membership closed with 35 members and dues increased to \$4.00. Business meetings and programs were held at the Public Library (Midtown Library).

#### **May 1970**

Microfilm was purchased for the Tennessee Census of 1830 at a cost of \$52.

#### **September 1970**

The 1820 census for Virginia and the 1810 census for Kentucky were purchased. Several members owned census records that were made available for other members. A Surname List of members was approved and distributed. The decision was made to contact Paxton Undertaking about records at the Jewell Wendell Funeral Home.

#### **October 1970**

A Book Committee was appointed and members were asked to provide a list of books they owned as well as a list of books they would like to see purchased.

#### **November 1970**

During the regular OGS meeting, reference librarian Mrs. Mildred Roblee mentioned that the scrapbook created by Dr. Hall for 1940-1960 was available on 10 reels of microfilm at the library with the first two being indexed.



## President 1971 – 1973 Frances Curry

Charter member

### January 1971

A committee was appointed to see what needed to be done for OGS to incorporate as a non-profit organization.

### February 1971

The report from the committee on incorporation: a motion was made and seconded to discontinue the idea of incorporation at this time due to cost and size of group.

The Book Committee reported the names of books which had been purchased.

### September 1971

It was approved to donate the 1830 Tennessee Populations Schedules Rolls 174-182 on microfilm to the Public Library (Midtown Library).

### December 1971

A Christmas Dinner, the business meeting and a program were held at Calvert's Cafeteria.

### 1972

The Business meetings and programs were held at the Public Library (Midtown Library). The Society continued to purchase books and report on various resources that were available. Members carried a small collection of books back and forth to meetings to share with all members. A Surname List was compiled and sold for 65 cents per copy.

### July 1972

Permission was granted by the Public Library (Midtown Library) for the storage of a box of periodicals.

### November 1972

It was voted to limit club membership to Greene County residents in the future. This did not last long because by July 1974 there were 18 members who lived outside Greene County.

### December 1972

The *"Directory of Ancestors of Members of OGS"* was published.



## President 1973 – 1974 Lena Wills

Founder, Charter Member, wrote Genealogy Column in newspaper

### 1973

The membership focused on books they personally owned and in obtaining the books they needed. Dues and fundraisers provided necessary funds to purchase more books.

### October 1974

Arrangements were made with the Public Library (Midtown Library) to house OGS books and a year later the first OGS volunteer librarians were appointed: Inabell Williams and Mary Cunningham.



## President 1974 – 1976 Mary Woody

### February 1975

A membership list was printed which containing 106 members.

### July 23, 1975

Lena Wills discussed the Old Owens Cemetery which the Missouri Highway Department planned to bulldoze in order to make Highway 13. This cemetery also called Julian Fulbright Cemetery by the Owens as well as the Cochrans.

Note: the cemetery was saved but is in terrible condition.



## President 1976 – 1978 Emily Barr

Founder, Charter Member, Life Member

### 1976

Everyone was encouraged to fill out a genealogy chart for the Bicentennial 1776 – 1976.

### 1977

Members saved Community Club Awards (CCA) for the KTTS Radio Fundraising Program. They also saved barcodes, coupons and earned points by shopping at specific stores. OGS usually won the top prize.

The registration fee was increased for new members and name tags were first used at meetings.

### June 1978

As a Club Project, Bonnie Shaw proposed that members fill out family group sheets of their families who were living in Greene County in 1850. The ***Before 1850 Project Committee*** was begun with members Bonnie Shaw, Emily Barr, George Findley and Mary Cunningham. Their goal was to prepare a book for the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1983.

### 1978

As a surprise, in December 1978 the first newsletter was published by Ralph and Bonnie Shaw. It seemed to be a good idea and the first regular newsletter appeared in February 1979.

In June 1979, the first edition of ***OZAR'KIN*** was published with John Gifford as editor. A Typing Committee was established.

Enclosed shelving was built at the Public Library (Midtown Library) for book storage at a cost of \$100. Only members were able to check out OGS books.

## President 1978 – 1979 Ralph Shaw

### 1979 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

OGS helped purchase the 1900 Federal Census and donated the microfilm to the Public Library (Midtown Library).

Over 355 group sheets were collected as of June 1979 for the ***Before 1850 Project***. Most of the information collected was used in the first two editions of the ***OZAR'KIN***. These were considered as Sesquicentennial collector's editions since they dealt with Greene County families prior to 1850.

Mary Ellen Gifford, John Gifford, Vera Wood, Bill Wood and Emily Barr became the Newsletter Committee.

The Bylaws were approved on September 12, 1979. The first P. O. Box at Glenstone Station was acquired at a cost \$10 for 6 months and the Standing Rules were accepted. It was approved that the past president become a member of the executive board. Life Membership was established.

Approval was given to apply for non-profit status from the IRS and Not-for-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of Missouri. The incorporation of the Ozarks Genealogical Society became official December 20, 1979.

## **President 1979 – 1980 Mildred Dodd**

### **1980**

First book published by OGS was 1890 Special Census Revised – Union Soldiers and their Widows, Book I: Christian, Dade, Dallas, Polk & Taney Counties

A decision was made to secure insurance for books at the OGS Library and bonding was obtained for the office of Treasurer. Having an Annual Dinner was started in September.

The purchase of a book cart was approved for the use of the OGS volunteer librarians at the Public Library (Midtown Library) and a second book cart was to be donated by the “Friends of the Library”.

A group of genealogists who met at Brentwood Library asked to become a part of OGS. They worked during the day and were unable to attend the day meetings, so they requested a night meeting to be held on the second Tuesday at Brentwood Library. They were: Helen Denison, Dorothy Burchett, Fred McQueary, John and Becky Wilson, Linda Ewing, Velma Browning, Wilma Baumgartner, Linda Yount, Fred Cook, Billie Smith, Mary Jo Staley, Regina Stone, Irene Redfearn, and Helen Henson. Approval was given to holding a meeting on third Tuesday of the month.

### **November-December 1980**

Library of Congress (Gift Division) requested a gift copy of OZAR’KIN or information on our purchase policy. It was approved to send a copy for 1979, 1980; and it was further approved to forward copies as long as we are printing the OZAR’KIN. In 1981, a thank you letter was received from the Library of Congress for the issues of OZAR’KIN.

## **President 1981 Beatrice Brown**

### **1981**

The Policy and Procedures Manual was adopted.

The first Genealogy classes sponsored by OGS were held.

640 books plus other materials were available on open shelves for the first time.

Bea Brown donated an engraved gavel that is still being used today.

OGS announced the Missouri State Genealogical Association (MOSGA) has been created.

Over 245 attended the first Fall Conference “UNTO THESE HILLS” which was held **October 17, 1981** at Howard Johnson’s Motor Lodge. Speakers were Betty Harvey Williams, author and Daniel Padberg, Ph.D. Drury professor.

The first Memorial Service for deceased members and family members was held and the practice of purchasing a book in honor of an immediate family member or OGS member who has died during the year was approved.

## President 1981 – 1983 Melba Rector

Life member

### 1982

It was approved to begin placing OGS books on shelves at the Public Library. (Midtown Library).

Prices and design are in the works for the first “flyer” brochure.

Sesquicentennial Committee 1833-1983 appointed. Members were: H, chairman, Imogene Bennett, Marion Demore, Charles Sheppard, Mildred Dodd and Bonnie Shaw.

The \$308.88 purchase of a second hand desk and matching table with keys was approved. This desk is to be used by the OGS librarian at the Public Library (Midtown Library). A chair and chair mat were also purchased at a cost of \$167.89.

### 1983

A traveling exhibit was prepared for the Sesquicentennial included the 1833 Greene County Tax List.

Night programs moved from Brentwood Library to Schweitzer United Methodist Church.

There were 858 books and 157 rolls of microfilm shelved on the third floor of the Public Library (Midtown Library).

## President 1983 – 1985 Linda Jones

Life Member

### 1984

Beginning of Special Collections.

Members started collecting local newspapers from various communities for the obituaries.

### 1985

The first Research Trip was to the State Historical Society of History Library in Columbia, MO.

The first picnic was held August 20 at Schweitzer United Methodist Church. It was sponsored by the *Night Workshop Study Group*.

The Greene County Cemetery project began.

Genealogy Classes were taught at Brentwood Library by OGS members.

The Obituary Committee was created in fall of 1985 with Bettie Hickman, Hazel Voris, Irene Redfearn, Bess Scott, Frances Daniel and Inabell Williams.

The Public Library (Midtown Library), decreed there was no more room for OGS books. At that time, OGS books were stored in the Stephenson’s garage, publications-for-sale at the Kelley’s, OZAR’KIN copies at the Woods’, and miscellaneous material in other homes. OZAR’KIN collation and mailings were done in homes or churches. A search began to find a better location.

## President 1985 – 1987 Hazel Voris

Member since 1971, Life Member

### 1986

As space became limited at the Public Library (Midtown Library), a group of members started looking for another place to house the collection. Members donated furnishings, money for shelving. Space was rented in the Wilhoit Building Suite B for one year, and the **OGS Center** was established. Mr. Arch Bay was the landlord. Open House was held on May 31, 1986 and pictures can be found in the Scrapbook. OGS co-sponsored a Records Preservation Seminar at Drury College.

## **1987**

Dr. William K. Hall donated abstracts of Springfield newspapers from 1865-1909 and gave permission for OGS to publish them.

“White River Valley Historical Society wished to borrow the 1833 Tax List to use during the Folklore Festival at Silver Dollar City. For using the Tax List the Society will frame it for OGS”. Nine OGS members participated by distributing handouts. The 1833 Tax List was loaned to Taney County Public Library in June and to the White River Valley Historical Society in July for viewing at the School of The Ozarks. OGS brochures and literature were also provided.

OGS obtained a used copy machine (MITR-DC-3132) for \$600. The funding was provided through donations. A fund drive was started to raise funds to purchase a building.

There were 31 Life Members.

OGS hosted a coffee for the opening of the Greene County Archives.

## **President 1987 – 1989 Mary Ellen Gifford**

### **1988**

A building was purchased on Catalpa Street to be used as the OGS Library. On May 9, 1988, City Council approved a Use Permit for OGS to create a library in a former Jehovah’s Witness church building at 534 West Catalpa, north of Fasnigh Park. Dedication and Open House for new OGS Library were held in June.

**The Ozarks Migration Card Project** was started and the Information was printed in **OZAR’KIN**. OGS had a booth at Silver Dollar City’s “Old Country Folk Festival”. Volunteer members were in attendance to visit with park guests and sell the OGS books. See pictures in Scrapbook.

A TV was donated to OGS for showing of VCR tapes.

A beautiful flower-garden pattern quilt was handmade and hand-quilted by Mrs. Hazel Rozell, mother of Juanita Blankenship who was the editor of OGS newsletter. Raffle ticket sales for the donated quilt were over \$726. The winner, Mr. William Sims, was announced at the Fall Conference October 1988. Funds received were used to purchase a typewriter, a chalkboard, three legal-size file cabinets and a wallpaper border for the entry area.

## **President 1989 – 1991 Adell Smith**

### **1989 20th Anniversary**

Members were encouraged to become 20/20 members - either donate \$20 or 20 hours of volunteer work to OGS during 1989. By the end of 1989, over 100 members had donated 1000 hours or more.

### **1990**

Mortgage burning! OGS Library building was paid off. An Open House to celebrate was held October 28, 1990. At the same time, a dual celebration was held to also celebrate 1000 subscriptions for **OZAR’KIN**. A desk and chair were located by Frances Curry for the OGS Library.

Dr. William Hall presented his collection of Springfield newspaper clippings dated 1939-1978. The purchase of a new photocopier was approved. It was a Canon NP 10-10 from Inland Printing costing \$1,295 with no trade in. A one year service contract was approved.

William Yates donated 28 boxes of books to the OGS Library on indefinite loan.

## President 1991 – 1993 Jody Clifton

### 1991

The first extended research trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana, took place in April. A generous member donated a microfilm reader/printer and a microfiche reader.

### 1992

Shelf space was doubled at the OGS Library by adding six units of shelves, 8" tall and 3 1/2 "wide. On July 19, lightning struck the air conditioning unit and the decision was made to replace the entire heat and air conditioning unit. A special thanks to the librarians who continued to volunteer in the July heat until the repairs were completed.

An insurance check for \$1,205 was received for hail damage on the roof and a new roof was added. New deadbolt locks were installed to meet building code

## President 1993 – 1995 Barbara Jensen

Life Member

### 1993 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

An electric security system (ORION) was provided by the Springfield-Greene County Library. The cost to put OGS books on the database was estimated at \$10,000, which the Springfield-Greene County Library will absorb. The only cost to OGS is the cost of a computer, installation and monthly internet fee at the OGS Library. The cost to add a new book will then be \$2.31.

OGS newsletters are now stored on computer. The first Computer Interest Group meeting was held. The purchase of four 4-Drawer fireproof file cabinets was approved.

An overhead projector and screen was purchased.

Work was done on the gravel parking lot - unfortunately the weeds continue to grow.

Due to an increase in incoming mail, a larger post office box was obtained with the number 3945.

A new chair is being purchased for the Shepherd Room as one of the volunteer librarians was injured when the chair broke.

**Roots for Kids Project** which places a genealogy book in every grade school library in the Springfield school district was approved. A list of the schools receiving a book is found in the 1995 newsletter. New shelves were added to OGS Library.

## President 1995 - 1997 Luci Ortner

### 1997

"OGS Library was remodeled by converting the stage area into an office space complete with shelves and mailboxes. The large storage cabinet was moved behind the desk for convenience and the microfilm/microfiche reading center was relocated to the northwest corner of the OGS Library.

Purchases included two telephones, projection screen and a new Canon MP 6025 duplicating machine".

OGS obtained an email address and Hayward Barnett was appointed as email coordinator. The OGS website was transferred to a Rootsweb server while maintaining a link to ORION.



## **President 1998 – 1999 Patsy McHaffie**

### **1998**

Springfield-Greene County Libraries purchased the former Payless Cashways Building on south Campbell. The OGS book collection formerly housed at the Public Library (Midtown Library) was moved to The Library Center's Local History and Genealogy Department in the new location. Moving of the History and Genealogy Department of Springfield-Greene County Library to the newly-remodeled Library Center was in the second week of October. In November 1999 the first business meeting in The Library Center was held followed by a tour and reception.

Approval to purchase 36 padded chairs for OGS Library was given. The OGS Library listings containing over 5,200 books was posted online. The periodical collection was reorganized and relabeled.

One of the OGS monthly programs was "How to Use a Scanner".

### **1999 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Many activities were planned to celebrate the Anniversary. Pictures can be found in the scrapbook. A 1969-1999 banner was designed by Vera Wood and hand-crafted by Alma Edmonds. Donations were received for the Dogwood Tree Project and a tree was planted on the north side of OGS Library. An Open House and Dogwood Tree Dedication was held during the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at OGS Library. Past Presidents were honored and a proclamation was made by City Councilman Bob Chancellor.

## **President 1999 – 2001 Lynn Shelley**

### **2000**

Eight folding tables and two book carts were purchased for the OGS Library with the old ones sold at auction. New gravel was added to the parking area. The OGS Library interior was painted. OGS purchased a block with our inscription for Founders Park. The Policy and Procedures Manual was revised. The Christmas party was cancelled due to bad weather.

### **2001**

Dusk to dawn lightning was installed at OGS Library. A "Christmas in July" party was held to replace the one which was canceled in December. OGS has a new email address [ogsoc@dellepro.com](mailto:ogsoc@dellepro.com). A new computer in the OGS office was upgraded by John Carter. OGS purchased the 1930 Federal Census records.

## **President 2001 - 2003 Bonnie Hallett**

### **2003**

New asphalt and striping on the parking lot at OGS Library was completed. A new hot water heater was added in the bathrooms with a new faucet installed in ladies room.

A "Researching Scotch Irish Ancestors Seminar" was held. Speaker was Fintan Mullan, Ulster Historical Foundation, Ireland.

Internet was changed to DSL

## **President 2003 – 2005 Melba Rector**

Life Member

### **2004**

Arsonist Jared Rupp (age 19) caused damage to 15,000 books plus carpeting, paneling etc. at The Library Center. The apparent motive of starting the fire was to destroy information he had put on a computer earlier. Over 10,000 volumes had to be replaced. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. There was over \$300,000 in damages; and several OGS members helped with restoration while many made contributions.

The OGS Collection now contains 8,500 books

## **President 2005 – 2006 John Purtell**

### **2005**

The OGS Library was closed from May 28 until after July 4, 2005 for remodeling to create a handicap accessible bathroom, in addition to many other improvements. A list of members who donated funds toward the renovations is listed in the March 2005 newsletter.

### **August 21, 2005**

Open house was held on Sunday afternoon to view the new renovations. Several pictures are in the scrapbook showing the work done, with some pictures on display at the OGS Library.

### **2006**

In February, the first newsletter was distributed via email.

A new copier was purchased and OGS Library Volunteers were trained on using the new copier.

The fiscal year was changed in 2006 from September to August to follow the calendar year.

## **President 2006 - 2008 – Doris Wilson**

### **2007**

Insulation was added to the attic of OGS Library. New outside signage of individual cast aluminum letters was installed on north side of OGS Library.

Carolyn Hixon designed new signs to be displayed during monthly programs at the TLC auditorium.

### **2008**

The first OGS website was developed.

The OGS Library parking lot was sealed and striped and a new roof was added.

## **President 2009 – 2010 Margaret Maulin**

### **2009 40th Anniversary**

A scrapbook was created for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Wi-Fi was installed at OGS Library.

### **2010**

The first online conference registration using PayPal for registration fees was begun. Thirty-nine people utilized the new system; and as an additional feature, they were able to download the syllabus.

A handbook for OGS library volunteers was created. A copy is to be kept in the front desk.

## **President 2011 Steve Buffat**

New parking signs were purchased. These were aluminum rather than plastic at a cost \$24.95 each. These signs are placed at each entrance of the parking lot, the east fence and the light pole (owned by OGS) on the south side of the building. Lots of vandalism and graffiti has been found on the building and signs. Discussion were held on various ways to handle this situation.

OGS Committee Reports and Business Meeting Minutes were placed on the OGS website under the "Members Only" section. Business cards were ordered. A decision was made to remove the position of second Vice President. Bylaws plus Policy and Procedures Manual were updated but no final copy was submitted for approval.

The Annual picnic was canceled due to poor attendance.

## **President 2012 Linda Chesebro**

OGS created a presence on Facebook. Interest in Genealogy was created by two programs on TV: on PBS, *Finding your Roots* with Henry Gates and on NBC, *Who do you think you are?*

The OGS newsletter began bi-monthly issues starting March/April 2012. A Monthly Research Day is started.

## **President 2013 Steve Buffat**

Due to his work schedule, Steve was not able to attend most of the Board Meetings and stepped down to allow the Vice President, Norma "GiGi" Hunter, to assume the responsibilities of President.

The OGS newsletters featured one page each issue with ideas and thoughts from a Board Member related to their family research.

## **President 2014 – 2015 Norma "Gigi" Hunter**

### **2014 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A number of committees were updated and some committee names were revised. Approval was given to close safety deposit box. Contents moved to the fireproof file cabinets. The Board approved a 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and program to be presented by Rita Wallace.

A Committee was appointed to review the status of the OGS Library. Committee Report was submitted in June 2014 by John Carter. While the membership discussed the ideas, no decision or recommendation was received. The review will be considered at another time.

### **2015**

OGS books were allowed to be "checked out" at the Springfield-Greene County Library to anyone with a valid library card. Books are also available for inter-library loan.

**The "1890 Substitute Census for Greene County Project"** was started.

Over 55,000 obituaries have been scanned and placed on the OGS computers for research.

The first OGS "Treasure Hunt" fundraiser was coordinated by Linda Chesebro. Monthly meeting dates were changed from three to two meetings per month: first Monday night of each month at 7:00 PM and the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM.

Melba Rector resigned as editor of the OZAR'KIN. Since subscriptions had declined, the publication was canceled with the Winter 2015 edition.

### **President 2016 – 2017 Rita Wallace**

#### **2016**

OGS Library front door was re-keyed and new keys provided.

Museum Field trips to the Air and Military Museum, History Museum on the Square, The Railroad Museum, and Doling Park Museum were added to the 2016 calendar.

Membership approved the installation of a new heating and air conditioning unit in a Special Business Meeting in February.

A new website was developed with more capabilities including special access to membership, dues and renewals as well as the ability to email members about membership.

#### **2017**

Patti Hobbs, Education Chair announced plans to add workshops for 2017. OGS was no longer teaching at OTC so Patti planned workshops to be held at OGS Library or other locations. A fee would be charged for some events while some would be free. OGS sponsored a one-day DNA Workshop in March 17, 2017 with Patti Hobbs, guest speaker held at Schweitzer United Methodist Church. A charge of \$25 per person including lunch was collected and over 110 attended. Over \$2400 was made from the DNA workshop for OGS expenses.

Name Tags for meetings were discontinued. Members could keep their name tags and wear them to the meetings and other events as needed.

Bylaws were revised and approved at the November 2017 Business Meeting.

Genealogy Classes were taught at Kings Way United Methodist Church "Classic Seniors Program" earning \$325 for OGS.

It was voted to change Wednesday morning programs from 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM beginning June,

As of November 2016, OGS now has 76,957 obituaries in the database.

The transfer of the Hall papers to The Library Center was approved.

Policy and Procedures Manual was revised, updated and approved. The Special Collections were moved into a locked room. The OGS Store was added to the website and is being monitored by Rick Webb, Publications Chair.

### **President 2018 J. D. McMillan**

#### **2018**

Conference chair Rita Wallace announced OGS member Patti Hobbs would be the speaker at the Fall Conference with the focus on DNA. The event would be held at Relics Event Center in Springfield.

The Obituary Committee submitted a request to collaborate with the Springfield-Greene County Library on our obituary collection of over 105,000 names.

It was decided by the Board that Special Collections research would be copied at a cost of \$25 per hour plus the cost of paper and shipping for paper copies, or for the \$25 an hour price if a pdf is desired.

New outdoor lights installed at the OGS Library. Lighting inside the OGS Library was enhanced with new fixtures. The parking lot has several major cracks which need to be fixed. Bids have been collected for presentation at the Annual Business Meeting

OGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2019. Gail Mitchell will chair the History Project to compile a written History of OGS.

## **President 2019 – 2020 Connie Daughtrey**

### **2019**

Many special events were planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and a new logo was designed.

Obituary Collection to be digitized in cooperation with the Springfield-Greene County Local History and Genealogical Department. It would be available at no cost.

Classes and Training on DNA family research will be developed to connect with families.

New membership cards were printed which can be used as a name badge at meetings, on research trips and other OGS events.

## Mission Statement Number 1

To educate and encourage members and the general public in the art and practice of genealogical research

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The Education Committee has been responsible for scheduling many important events.

- Workshops and Seminars focusing on specific topics. Workshops could be 4 hours or all day.
- Classes on Beginning Genealogy were taught at various libraries in Greene County including the OGS Library, churches, Ozarks Technical College (OTC) and in many other locations.
- New member orientations support and the development of packets for educating new members about the OGS Library and other resources.
- The continuance of workshops in 2019 focusing on the “Nuts and Bolts” of Genealogy plus a 6 week DNA class.

The Program Committee has been responsible for the monthly programs. Regular programs have been an integral part since the first meeting in 1969, even though the day of the week and the time of the meeting has changed over the years. Currently there are two per month: one day meeting is on Wednesday and one night meeting is on Monday.

The programs were first held in the Public Library (Midtown Library) and upon the opening of The Library Center, the meetings were moved to the new location. The programs and names of speakers are listed in previous newsletters. The list of previous programs can be found in a 3-ring binder in the OGS Office. Pictures, brochures, and other items related to these events can be found in the scrapbooks. Current programs and events are on the OGS website.

The Conference Committee has been responsible for planning the Conference each year since 1983. A copy of each syllabus 1983 – 2018 plus another document which lists conference themes, dates, locations, and speakers is located on the computers at the OGS Library.

One of the OGS Scrapbooks has pictures and detailed information on Conferences held 1981 – 1986. Additional detailed information on each conference can be found in the Conference Committee Reports located in the minutes, the newsletters, and in the 3-ring binder used by the Committee chair. Extensive planning and many members are involved in planning and implementing the conference.

Research Trips have been planned to give members opportunities to research at different libraries, archives, and other repositories in other cities and other states. The Vice President usually plans the research trip each year – either in-state or out-of-state.

Trips were made many times to the following locations in Missouri starting in 1974.

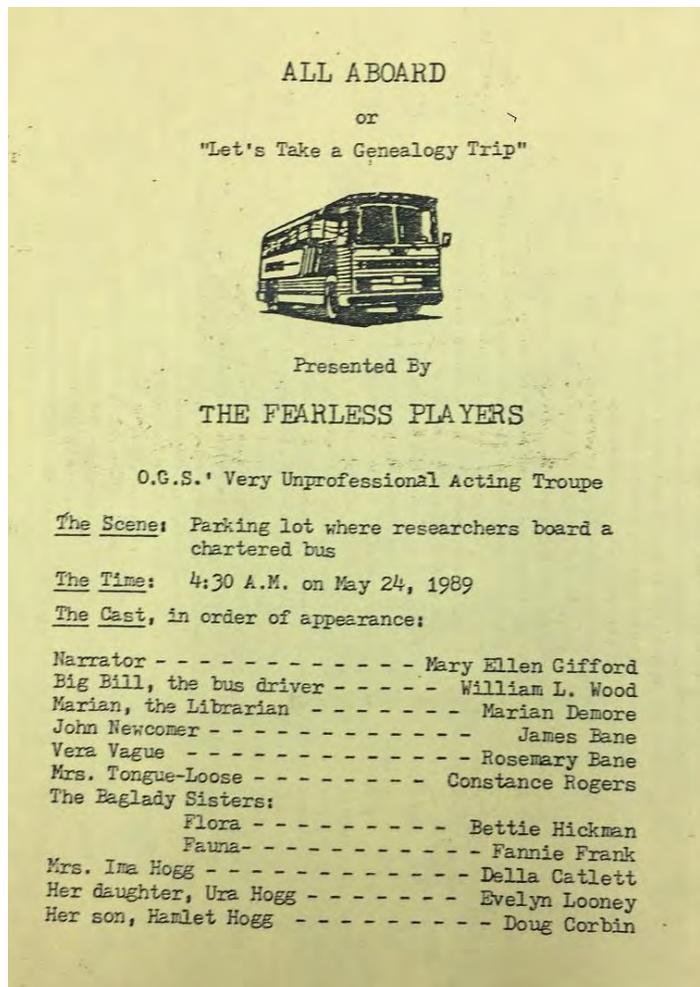
- Mid-Continent Library - now Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence
- Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City
- State Historical Society Library, Columbia
- Public Library and other Repositories, St. Louis

Out-of-state trips were more costly and involved several days of travel and research.

- Allen County Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana was the first extended research trip on April 21-25, 1991
- Dallas Ft. Worth, Texas repositories
- Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee
- Salt Lake City, Utah was in 2014 with 15 OGS members and 2 nonmembers
- Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky

A bus was chartered for many trips, but eventually fewer and fewer members were able to participate. As fewer people were going on trips, members drove their own vehicles. Pictures for the trips can be found in the scrapbooks. Details about the research trips can be found in the newsletters and minutes.

“Let’s Take a Genealogy Trip” to St. Louis Library



#### Field Trips – One Day Research Trips

In 2017, one day research trips were organized. Members have visited local and county Museums, Historical and Genealogical Societies, County Courthouses, County Libraries, and cemeteries.

## Mission Statement Number 2

To acquire a collection of genealogical and historical materials for a genealogical library available to members and the general public.

# THE LIBRARY

## Newsletter June-July 2004

A Brief Summary of the OGS Library Collections by Melba Rector.

“Soon after our organization was formed in 1969 the need for books was realized. The first book catalogued for OGS was Ramsey’s *Annals of Tennessee*. By August of 1971 the number had reached 25 and were primarily relating to Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. These were carried in a box back and forth to their meetings. Eventually a small locked space was acquired in the Public Library referred to as the ‘broom closet’ to house the materials. Books were added each year by donations and a few purchases with society funds. Being able to check out the books was a real plus. By February of 1982 we had a record of 768 books catalogued. About this time an arrangement was made with the Public Library to place some of our books on an allotted amount of open shelf space and would be accessible to the public on a reference basis. Our collection grew quickly beyond our allotted space and soon it was necessary to house many materials in a member’s home. By 1986 it was necessary to rent space in the Wilhoit Building to house our additional materials which could not be placed at the Library on Central Street due to limited space included maps, microfilm, microfiche, vertical files, periodicals, family histories and our Missouri holdings.



In 1988 OGS purchased and moved into our current building. According to the May newsletter of that year our collections at the Library and the OGS Library totaled 2050 books, 900 volumes (3600 issues) of periodicals, 415 rolls of microfilm and 1944 sheets of microfiche.” Each year our collections have continued to grow.



Wilma Russell and Fannie Frank at the OGS desk in the Shepard Room of the Public Library (Midtown Library).

## Timeline for OGS Library

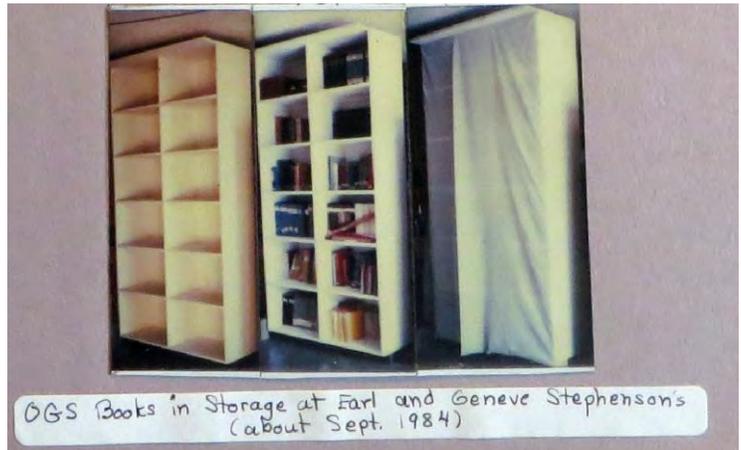
**1971** Approved donating 1830 Tennessee Populations Schedules Rolls 174-182 (microfilm) to the Public Library (Midtown Library).

**1978** Partition built for OGS book storage at Public Library (Midtown Library) at a cost of \$100. Members in December were able to check out their own books.

**April 1980** Insurance was secured for OGS books at the Springfield-Greene County Library.

**1982** OGS members Earl Stephenson and Hazel Voris were able to secure a second hand desk and a matching table for \$200. Keys for the desk and a chair was purchased.

**1983** 858 books and 157 rolls of microfilm were shelved on the third floor of the Public Library (Midtown Library).



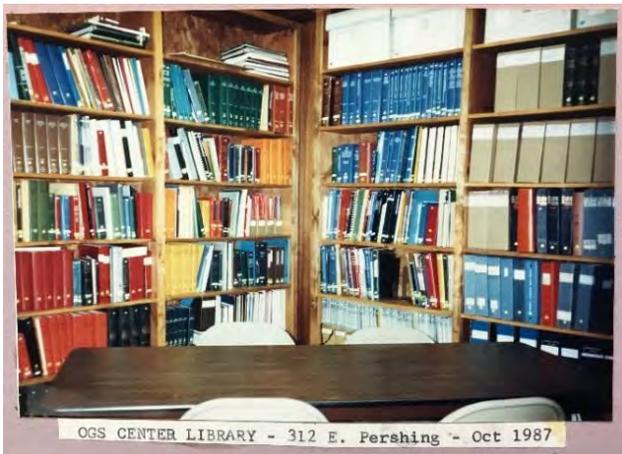
**1985 September** newsletter "In the near future a photocopier will be placed in the Shepard Room at the Public Library on a six-month trial. In order to keep the machine, IT WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR ITSELF. The hope is that this will be a permanent addition to the facility, but it will require the support of the regular patrons."

**1986** The Public Library (Midtown Library) did not have room for all the books owned by OGS. A committee was appointed to search for another location.

**March 1986** newsletter "The Springfield-Greene County Library now has a mag card system for use in Xeroxing. The card costs \$10 and it can be used for 100 copies at any of the branch libraries."

**March 15, 1986** OGS signed a one year lease which included one parking space during the work day and free parking on weekends. The new location is at the Wilhoit Building, 322 East Pershing, Suite B. Owner and now the landlord was Mr. Arch C. Bay. The name of the two rooms was to be **OGS Center**. Over 90 members and guests attended the Open House on Saturday May 31, 1986.

## THE OGS CENTER 1986 - 1988



With only one space provided, parking was a problem during the week even though there was street parking for visitors. More parking became available during the weekend when businesses were closed.

**1987 July** OGS obtains used copy machine MITR-DC-3132 for \$600 to be used at OGS Center. Donations provided funding. The **OGS Center** was busy and soon, it was no longer sufficient for the needs of the membership, so another search was started to locate a permanent site.



## **THE OGS LIBRARY**

**1988 purchased former Parkview Congregation Jehovah's Witnesses church building on Catalpa Street. Purchase price was \$53,500.00. The loan was \$10,000 with the balance coming from book sales, and cash donations. Special thanks to Bettie Hickman for her gracious loan while donations were raised.**

**Copies of paperwork and process to obtain a Use Permit are stored in the locked file cabinets in the OGS Office. Copies of some papers are in the Scrapbook.**

**March 1988 newsletter from the words of Mary Ellen Gifford.**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The events of the past four months have been a beautiful example of the goodness and generosity of the members and friends of O.G.S. There have been challenges and frustrations aplenty, but the problems came from external sources. I am grateful beyond my ability to express for the careful consideration given by you to each problem as it arose. I appreciate you for your ability to listen to one another, to compromise when necessary, and to cooperate throughout the entire time. It is this spirit of cooperation that has made it possible for us to purchase and move into our lovely new Genealogical Library.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO SPECIAL PEOPLE:**

To Ralph and Evelyn Looney who "spotted" the listing of the church building at 534 W. Catalpa at a reduced asking price.

To the O.G.S. Search Committee, Mary M. Swann, Juanita Blankenship, James Elliott and Carl Stephenson, For investigating the possibility of purchasing, for arranging an open-house viewing for our members, and for assuming the tedious and time-consuming responsibilities of the negotiations for the purchase. Their title changed to Building Committee and they served us faithfully and capably.

To all Board and Council members for valuable leadership, counsel and support.

To all members who responded to the original opinion survey, encouraging us to pursue this project.

To all members who attended the several lengthy business meetings, asked the necessary questions, and by their votes gave the majority stamp of approval which made the project possible.

To Evelyn Looney, Petition Chairman, and the small army who braved the terrible storms of December 1987 to secure 1100 signatures on our petition for a Use Permit.

To members of Heritage Council organizations who supported us with letters and petition signatures.

To Councilman Chuck Wooten for his advice and counsel as to necessary proceedings at City Hall and especially for his sponsorship of a City Ordinance change making it possible for "Not-for-Profit" Organizations to own property for private libraries.

(continued next page)

To Mr. Fred May, Mr. Andy Furedy and the staff at the Springfield Zoning and Planning Commission for their courteous consideration of our use permit and for recommending its passage to the City Council.

To Earl Stephenson who was our effective spokesman at three open hearings at City Hall and to our many members and friends who attended these meetings in support of the ordinance change and the Use Permit request.

To the O.G.S. Center Coordinator Hazel Voris and her committee, John Carr, Marian Demore, for involving library and publication personnel in planning for the preliminary use of space in our new building.

To Hazel Voris and a great crew of workers who provided vehicles, muscle power, and food for the move to the new location. Those helping with this March 5 activity included:

Andy & Grace Anderson	Pete & Fannie Frank	Bess Scott
John Carr	John & Mary Ellen Gifford	Earl & Geneve Stephenson
Doug Corbin	Bettie Hickman	Mary Swann
Crain & Hazle Tyler	Dan Keller	Larry & Hazel Voris
Bill & Vera Wood		

To Pastor Dale Hartley and the members of Parkview Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses and to Marvin Boyce, their agent, for patience, kindness and consideration throughout the long process of negotiations as their building became our building. We especially appreciate the filling out of five of our petitions by these good people.

To the five O.G.S. members who offered to lend the necessary money to complete the building purchase. Selecting one lender was a difficult task, and all potential lenders were equally appreciated.

And finally, to the many, many, many members and friends who gave money in excess of (25,000 to make this dream a reality. If any names have been omitted, please call it to my attention. The contributors are:

Mary Adams	George T. Harper	Sue Pitts
Lucille Allcorn	Gene T. Hendricks	Frances Quinn
Andy & Grace Anderson	Bettie Hickman	Melba Rector
Betty Ammerman	iva F. Hill	Irene Redfearn
James & Rosemary Bane	Ann K. Hollen	Marsha H. Rising
Paul Barker	Pauline W. Huffman	Ernest & Marcella Roberts
Bob & Emily Barr	Mae Hughes	Opal Roberts
Imogene Bennett	Barbara Jensen	Mary Robertson
Kathleen Berg	Linda Jones	Constance Rogers
Juanita Blankenship	Charles Kessinger	Bess Scott
Beatrice J. Brown	Mildred King	Lois Sellmeyer
Quentin A Audrey Buck	Robert R. Lange	Ralph & Bonnie Shaw
Lynn Bussey	Mary N. Lee	Charles Sheppard
Virginia Bussey	Evelyn Looney	Adell C. Smith
Winifred Butrick	Delia Luna	Earl & Geneve Stephenson
Marjorie Cook	Dorothy Mahan	Betty Stiver
Doug Corbin	Basil & Wyomia Mark	Truman & Mary Swann
Frances Curry	Margaret A. McBride	Virginia True
Mary O. Davis	Fred & Ramona McQueary	H.G. & Dorothy Visio
Carl & Willene Dernehi	Dora Miller	Hazel Voris
John & Geraldine Duggins	Betty Moore	Pauline Webb
James & Mary Elliott	Ermadean Moore	Inabell Williams
Fannie E. Frank	Barbara Morrison	William L. & Vera Wood
John & Mary Ellen Gifford	Luci Ortner	Ethel Young
Michael Glenn	Dorothea Owen	Checks in memory of:
Alice Goodman	William D. Peck	Loyd Hickman
Barbara Grantham	Robert R. Piland	Mrs. Julia E. Shannon
Dr. Wm. K. Hall		

We now enter into a new phase of activity for O.G.S. These lovely facilities offer a great variety of opportunities for study, research and service. Let us continue to

The Ozarks Genealogical Society Library was a reality - a permanent home to house all the books, publications, pamphlets, and a place to prepare and publish the OZAR'KIN and other publications.

**1988** The first Tuesday night meeting was held in the OGS Library on March 15, 1988 while the first Council meeting was held there on April 6, 1988. The Dedication of the Library was held on June 12, 1988 and the Open House was June 18, 1988.

**1990** The loan of \$10,000 was paid. On Sunday October 28, 1990, there was another Open House to celebrate the Mortgage Retirement and also to celebrate over 1,000 subscriptions to OZAR'KIN.

**1992** Shelf space at OGS Library was doubled.

**1993** The Springfield-Greene County Library provided an electronic security system for OGS books.

**November 3, 1993** Minutes "It was decided Doug Corbin would complete a written agreement between the OGS and the Springfield-Greene County Library to merge the census records to facilitate research at the Public Library. This written agreement is to be presented to Michael Glenn of the Springfield-Greene County Library." (Michael Glenn was the Local History Librarian 1946-2013)

**December 1, 1993** Minutes "Doug Corbin discussed the letter of agreement he wrote to Michael Glenn stating OGS would combine our Missouri census books with theirs, their census indexes with ours and as much of the census Soundex microfilm as they have space."

**April 1995** Minutes A letter was received from Annie Busch, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Library, thanking OGS for the Bible Records Book recently donated to them.

**April 1995** newsletter "The Library Comes to You Electronically". The Library Foundation is engaged in an effort to raise funds which will be used to upgrade the electronic equipment in the library and expand the information retrieval opportunities in the community. The Ozarks Genealogical Society's Books would be catalogued and put into the computer so patrons of the library would find out what books we have available. This does not mean non-members could check out our books. The cost to catalog our books would be about \$10,000, which would be paid for with funds raised by the Library Foundation. In order to have access to the electronic catalog, OGS would need to purchase a computer terminal to place in our library. The cost of the terminal would be approximately \$1,000 plus the cost of installation and a monthly charge for a dedicated Telephone line. After the books now on hand are catalogued, we would pay approximately \$2.31 to have new books catalogued."

**1997** OGS Library remodeled the south end of the room by converting the stage area into an office space complete with shelves and mailboxes. The large storage cabinet was moved behind the desk for convenience and the microfilm/microfiche reading center was relocated to the northwest corner of the OGS Library. Two telephones, a projection screen and a new Canon MP 6025 duplicating machine were purchased. The official visitor count at the OGS Library for 1996 – 1997 was 5,951 persons from 21 states.

**1997 December** newsletter "The OGS Electronic Book Catalog DYNIX terminal will be installed soon. Look to your newsletter for further details about the system and how to use it."

**February 1998** newsletter “The DYNIX system has been frozen and all transfers have been made to the new System III (Innovative Interfaces Incorporated). The new System III is expected to be online January 26, 1998. It is expected to take two weeks to work out the bugs. OGS is ready to be connected to the system. OGS has about 5200 books.”

**1998** Springfield-Greene County Libraries purchased former Payless Cashways Building on south Campbell.

OGS book collection housed at the Public Library (Midtown Library) was moved to The Library Center, Local History and Genealogy Department.

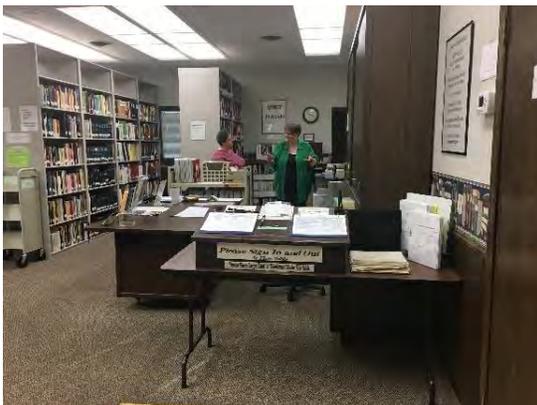
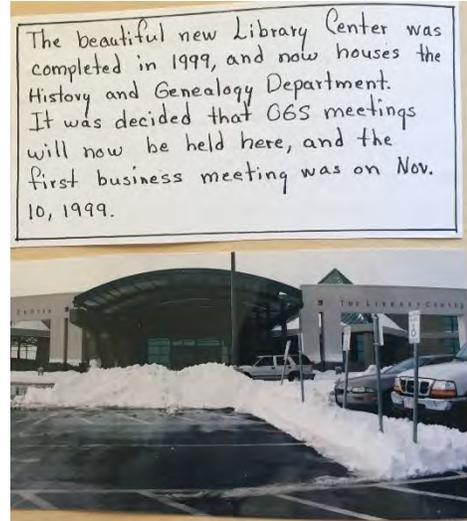
**2010** A handbook was developed for OGS library volunteers and a copy is in the front desk files.

**2014** Future of OGS Library presented by John Carter, Treasurer. The OGS Board and Council have endeavored to change the financial situation and to create more activities and events at the OGS Library. Membership is being reminded of the *Hidden Treasures* located inside the four walls of this building.

**2015** The Springfield-Greene County Library has allowed OGS books to be “checked out” to anyone with a valid Library card. Books are also available for inter-library loan.

**2016** Current Librarian Micki Dischinger reported the combined total of OGS books is 11,041. To date, 1,265 OGS books have been borrowed. Of that number, 163 books were checked out locally and 22 were checked out through the Mobius inter-library loan program.

**2018** Current Librarian Micki Dischinger has reported there are 11,197 publications at both the OGS Library and TLC library. There are 18 volunteer member librarians working 15 shifts at the OGS Library.



### Did You Know the OGS Library?

- offers wireless internet access for your genealogical research?
- has 2 public-use computer which allow internet access?
- has operating hours and schedule online at <http://ozarksgs.org>?
- has the complete index to all OGS member-contributed pedigree charts (1,100+) available on the computer at the OGS Library? The charts are searchable by name and can be viewed and printed.

There are many digitized publications which can be searched by name or location including:

- Over 150,000 newspaper obituaries for southwest Missouri
- All OGS publications including cemeteries, marriage records, funeral home records, and much more.
- An index of all special collections donated to OGS.
- A ten-year index (1979-1988) of **OZAR'KIN** plus the Tables of Contents from all issues for the past 32 years.
- All holdings at the Springfield Family History Centers, summarized by locality and surname.

### Librarians

October 1971	Lena Wills
1979-1981	Melba Rector
1982	Marsha Rising
1983-1985	Hazel Voris
1986-1987	Fannie Frank
1987-1999	Doug Corbin
2000-2003	Margaret McBride
2003-2004	Belinda Wilkerson
2004-2009	Barbara Jensen
2009-2011	Lynn Shelley
2011-present	Micki Dischinger

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

### History of the OGS Special Collections

The first mention of anything related to Special Collections came from the OGS Board and Council meeting when Frances Curry read a letter from Mr. James Bayard Inmon “offering genealogical material to our Society. Mary Ellen Gifford, Betty Ammerman and Melba Rector went to his home” to review the materials and select what OGS could use. [OGS Council minutes, 7 Sep 1983] This was the first collection that OGS accepted and became the James Bayard Inmon Papers (1901-1984). At a later date it was decided not to keep the papers and they were transferred to the Western Historical Manuscript Collections in Columbia, Missouri.

An article in the OGS newsletter [Vol. VII, No. 8, Jun-Jul 1985] called the “Business Brief” talked about “donations...needed to defray the expenses that will be involved in acquiring the LOONEY PAPERS.” This probably referred to the Madge (Edmonson) Vanderheide collection (1894-1979) which was the second collection acquired by the Ozarks Genealogical Society. At this time this was all under the auspices of the OGS Research Committee.

The second mention of the Madge (Edmonson) Vanderheide came in the February 1986 OGS newsletter [Vol. III, No. 4]. It stated that OGS had accepted the collection in 1985 because it contained many references to southwest Missouri families. At that time there was no special collections but a committee was appointed to organize the papers so they could be used by researchers. It took 500 volunteer hours to process the collection. Use of this collection was opened March 1, 1986, for researchers to see the Vanderheide papers at the Brentwood Library Meeting Room.

At the December 3, 1985, OGS Board Meeting, the committee who processed the Vanderheide papers recommended that policies for accepting and processing collections be established, as well as guidelines for the using of the collections. By the July 1, 1987, Board Meeting, Betty Ammerman was appointed chairman of this committee reviewing the genealogical collections donated to OGS. [OGS Newsletter Vol. IX No. 8, Jul 1987]

By the OGS Council meeting on February 1, 1988, Chairman Ammerman had selected Doug Corbin, Fannie Frank, Bettie Hickman, Evelyn Looney, and Betty Piland to serve on the committee. But it was not until December 7, 1988, that the Board formalized the Special Collections Committee to process donations of genealogical collections. The following is the first annual report of the Special Collections Committee from the OGS Newsletter Vol. XIII No. 1, Oct 1989:

Special Collections Committee—Betty Ammerman, Chm. This is a new committee, organized in January to work with the Librarian. Its purpose is to evaluate and distribute genealogical material given to the society. Forms have been developed for acceptance of gifts, for acknowledging said gifts, and for keeping an inventory. A plan has been devised for storing collections in the file cabinets at the O.G.S. Library, with a notebook containing a copy of the contents of each collection. This includes collections received previously from James B. Inmon, Paul Moser, and Madge Vanderheide. The committee has worked 1000 hours and has processed the collections of Mary Ellen Higginbotham, Wilma Munsell and Fleta Ryder, containing approximately 282 file folders. Processing of Elsie Duke’s papers will begin soon.

On March 7, 1997, Special Collections was recommended for standing committee status with the duties and job description page for the Policy & Procedures Manual approved by the Executive Board. It was not until October 14, 1998, that the Bylaws reflected that Special Collections had become a standing committee. During that time OGS continued to accept collections and process them.

Over the years the OGS Special Collections has grown to around 30 collections. Collections are still accepted by the Society but under strict guidelines because of the time and cost of processing the materials. When collections which meet our collecting policy are offered to the society, we help the donors find other repositories to accept their papers. Special Collections are stored in file cabinets at the OGS Library where they are open for research by the public when the OGS Library is open. The index and descriptions of the collections can be accessed in book form and on the OGS computers.

Rita Wallace  
Chair, Special Collections



### Mission Statement Number 3

To collect, preserve and publish genealogical and historical materials relating to the Missouri Ozarks region.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**May 2004 newsletter** Hazel Voris wrote “We’ve come a long way from the six publications to 143 publications for sale. Please pick up a 4-page Special Publications Flyer at the OGS Library. By the way, all of our publications can be seen at the Library Center and the OGS Library. The books are sold for one year before they can be donated. They are donated to the libraries at the October Business Meeting. We are fulfilling our purpose of preserving and making available genealogical records.”

### Cemetery Project

In 1981, The OGS members developed a project to locate cemeteries in Greene County in 1981 which continued for many years. From this research several other related projects were developed and eventually became publications with 14 volumes dedicated to the cemeteries in Greene County.

Cemetery readers Bettie Hickman, member since 1971, and Kay Jacobsen were known to spend hours and hours “reading cemeteries”. Bettie still laughs about tripping over a headstone and falling in front of Fannie Frank, member since 1978. Bettie wasn’t hurt, so they just kept writing names and dates.



Today, digitized copies of all 168 Publications produced by OGS members are on website under the heading “OGS STORE.” These publications were the result of many hours of work by past and present OGS member volunteers. In the past, OGS offered these items in paperback form.

We are indebted to the hard work, diligence and genealogical expertise of every person that worked on these publications over the years. Inside each book are the names of the volunteers and an explanation of how the research was conducted. Each book was sold with the funds being applied toward the cost of more and more publications. It has been a few years since anything has been published. Today the information being created will be available in digital format instead of being published.

### List of the 168 Publications on the website under OGS Store

14 volumes - Greene County cemeteries

71 volumes – Census Records for Dallas County, Greene County, Laclede County, Polk County, Putnam County, Webster County, and Wright County, and several other counties in Southwest Missouri plus Iowa counties.

4 volumes - Civil War Related Records

28 volumes - Funeral & Monument Records

4 volumes - Greene County Court Records

12 volumes - Greene County Marriage Records

27 volumes - Greene County Newspaper Abstracts by William K. Hall Papers

5 volumes - Land Records

An Index to Cemetery Locations in the Missouri Ozarks

History and Directory of Springfield, Missouri by William K. Hall

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Greene County, Missouri 1873

### Members Only

Some printed items were created for members only. None of these are in the OGS Store.

Sample copies for several of these printed items are in a 3-ring binder named **MEMBERS ONLY** which is located in the OGS Library.

- **Directory of Ancestors of Members of OGS** The December 1972 copy had 16 pages and sold \$1.50 per copy.
- **Membership Lists** These were typed and printed each year and distributed at meetings or mailed to members. Lists are available from 1971 – 2004. In 2016, OGS developed a new website which allows members to access the membership list online.
- **Private Library Holdings** (books owned by members) - 27 pages back to back hand typed. List changed as new books were purchased by an individual or when books were donated to OGS.
- **OGS Library Holdings** List of OGS Books at OGS and at Springfield-Greene County Library. List dated January 1, 1998 has 122 pages back to back hand typed. A new list would be printed each year as needed.
- **Surname Index** was first completed in July 1972 and copies sold for 65 cents each. These were updated each year and made available to the members. Surnames of members can now be found on the OGS website and in the OGS library vertical files.

March 1994 newsletter

### **Get Acquainted with Special Publications Committee**

By Hazel Voris, Chairman Special Publications Committee

Have you ever wondered how the Special Publications Committee produces its books? Are you curious about publications currently in progress?

How the committee chooses what to publish is an often-asked question. We've always been guided by what our volunteers are willing and able to do. For example, member Penny Bolin has access to Kent-Clark Monument Company records. Was the Society interested in this? Yes! Yes! Bolin abstracted data from these records; such as name(s) and date(s) engraved on the tombstone, who paid for it, where it was delivered, and other genealogical data. From 1915 to the 1930's these tombstones went to cemeteries all over southwest Missouri and to some in Arkansas. This book should be out in 1994.

Irene Redfearn was responsible for obtaining permission to copy area funeral home records. Klinger, Lohmeyer, and Meadors are in various stages of publication.

Frances Daniel has been very busy copying Greene County Marriage Books. She's transcribed J-K, 1891-1895/6, which we'll publish this year. She's currently working on Marriage Book L.

Betty Ammerman copied the Polk County, Missouri, Death Register, 1883-1891. She's sharing this with OGS. The committee decided to add other information. Bettie Hickman is copying Polk County births for this time period, and we'll probably include the mortality schedules. When completed, we'll publish "Vital Records or Miscellaneous Records of Polk County, Missouri".

Don't forget our newspaper abstracts and indexes, compiled by William K. Hall, M.D. of St. Louis. Dr. Hall has spent many hours poring over Springfield newspapers, abstracting genealogical data. He's currently indexing The Springfield Republican, 1911-1919.

If you've ever looked at the Greene County, Missouri, 1900 census microfilms, you'll see why transcribing them is so time consuming. The films are very difficult to read because surnames are marked over and numbers are written on top of them (usually on the head of the household). Hazyl Andrus is doing a super job transcribing them. The third volume should be published later this year.

Producing our books is a complex process. Some volunteers abstract data, and others proof it back to the original. The data is typed and is proofed again. Other volunteers index, and then the index is proofed. Our transcribers copy exactly what they see on the records, including misspellings. We work at the speed of our volunteers. They may seem slow, but those involved want the books to be accurate. If our names are connected with a book, we want it to be the best book possible.

Carolyn Snider has graciously typed for OGS for many years, wearing out two typewriters. Marian Demore's spent hours and hours proofing with her red pen. Vera Wood has designed all the artwork for our covers. Special publications don't just happen. It takes a team of people, working hard for many hours, to make a book."

## **NEWSLETTERS**

The first OGS newsletter was printed in 1978 by Ralph and Bonnie Shaw as a Christmas present to the OGS members. It was a great success.

The newsletters have been produced every year since 1979. Some years, they were provided monthly while some years they were quarterly. Today there are six issues per year.

The newsletters were distributed by mail, but as the number of copies increased and postage increased most are being sent via email. As of 2019, 200 copies are being mailed while the rest are sent electronically. OGS distributes the newsletters to other societies, various libraries and several organizations in Missouri.

Doug Corbin is the current editor, but over the years, several members have served as editor with others serving as proofreaders.

Each issue features the many activities of the Society including news about the members. After the Annual Business Meeting, the newly elected officers each year are listed. And following the Memorial Service, a copy of the Memorial Program will be included. New Members are listed each month as well as a list of new books added to the Library is included. The newsletter is a valuable tool.

Previous copies can be located:

1978 - 2002 In blue bound books on shelves at OGS Library

1978 - Present on computers at the OGS Library

Past ten years are on the OGS website

Some newsletters can be found in the scrapbooks

1979 Scrapbook: Vera Wood, Dora Miller, James Bane, Mary Cunningham, Mildred Dodd, Emily Barr, Wilma Brite, Ruth Browning, Bonnie Shaw.



## THE OZAR'KIN

In 1979 while developing the *Before 1850 Project*, OGS needed a way to share this information with others. Therefore, they developed a quarterly journal called the OZAR'KIN which was printed in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Subscriptions increased steadily for several years. Everyone who subscribed seemed to be excited about each edition. It was widely read and respected by those who utilized the valuable resources. While supplying research information, the OZAR'KIN became the financial powerhouse for Ozark Genealogical Society.

Over the years, the subscription price not only covered the production costs, but also provided extra funds for OGS operating expenses. At first there was a separate checking account created for the OZAR'KIN. As shown in the attached financial report from 1983, the OZAR'KIN funds were also utilized for other OGS expenses. A few years later, the separate checking account was closed with future funding being processed through the OGS checking account.

Before the OGS Library was purchased in 1988, most of the work on the OZAR'KIN was completed in private homes. Producing the OZAR'KIN was hard work and involved many hours.

- Researching what information was to be printed
- Typing every article which was in each edition – typewriters – finally a computer
- Proofing the many pages
- Printing copies of each page
- Collating and stapling the pages to create each issue.
- Typing labels for every subscriber until labels could be printed by computer
- Attaching labels and mailing each issue

A special thank you is extended to the editor, Melba Rector for her dedication to provide this valuable resource over the years. A special thank you is also extended to each and every member who participated in making OZAR'KIN a success.

OZAR'KIN was to be issued quarterly and John Gifford was the first editor. The initial cost was \$6.00 per year for the four issues. In July 1979, there were 302 subscriptions and the number of subscriptions rose to 800 in January 1985. By 1990, there were over 1,000 subscriptions and in 1994 the subscriptions had risen to 1,014. But by 2013, subscriptions had decreased to under 250. The cost in 2014 was \$15.00 per year for the four issues.

As technology increased, the number of subscriptions declined and the production costs increased; and Melba Rector resigned as editor. After careful consideration, the OGS Board voted to discontinue the production of the OZAR'KIN with the 2015 Winter Issue.

Copies of the OZAR'KIN can still be found on library shelves throughout southwest Missouri. There are even some copies at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. A few printed copies are available for purchase at the OGS Library. Digital copies of the OZAR'KIN can be found on the computers at the OGS Library and digital copies are available for purchase on the OGS website – click on “OGS Store”.

Three reports are included reflecting the work involved in this awesome project:

- 1) There are two pages of a financial report from September 30, 1983
- 2) Written report from Hazel Voris - May 2004
- 3) Report from Melba Rector - December 2009

OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

OZAR'KIN ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1983

Receipts:

Subscriptions and single issue		\$ 6,260.37
Reimbursed for Workshop Source Book materials		133.45
Sale of maps		<u>15.00</u>
Total receipts		6,408.82

Disbursements:

Paper and stencils	\$ 434.12	
Commercial printing	4,924.05	
Supplies	749.03	
Postage	605.58	
Mailing supplies	252.57	
Office supplies	22.03	
Advertising	157.19	
Equipment repair	152.33	
Maps and binding	764.80	
Refunds	10.00	
Donations to Church for space used	50.00	
Transfer to General Operations Account	<u>111.00</u>	
Total disbursements		<u>8,232.70</u>

Excess of disbursements over receipts (1,823.88)

Beginning cash balance, October 1, 1982 2,607.85

Ending cash balance, September 30, 1983 \$ 783.97

OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

OZAR'KIN ACCOUNT

During the fiscal year of October 1, 1982 - September 30, 1983, there were some O.G.S. expenses paid from the OZAR'KIN account which were directed by the Executive Board, such as the printing of the 1880 Greene County Census books, binding of books for the O.G.S. library, and our Newsletter. Also, some paper, ink and other supplies were used for projects within the society. For your information an attempt has been made to explain the disbursements made from the OZAR'KIN account.

Balance on hand 1 October 1982 \$ 2,607.85

Total Receipts \$ 6,408.82

Disbursements:

OZAR'KIN

Commercial Printing	\$ 2,815.50	
Envelopes (for mailing)	191.28	
Postage	420.30	
Advertizing, paper, ink, stencils, xerox copies, etc	634.36	
Miscellaneous supplies	183.74	
Equipment	<u>152.33</u>	
		\$ 4,397.51

O.G.S. LIBRARY

93 books rebound		734.80
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SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

1880 Greene Co. Census		2,229.63
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NEWSLETTER

(Paper, stencils, ink, newsletter headings, postage, labels)		583.00
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SPECIAL MAILINGS

(By laws and Membership Lists)		32.86
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REPRINTS

OZAR'KIN Vols I, II, III (To build a stock of 120 each of the 12 issues)		150.00
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1890 SPECIAL CENSUS

(Book I - 200 copies)		<u>104.90</u>
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Total Disbursements \$ 8,232.70

Excess of disbursements over receipts (1,823.88)

Ending cash balance, September 30, 1983 \$ 783.97

*William L. Wood*

WILLIAM L. WOOD  
Business Manager

## OZAR'KIN EDITOR'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2009

The OGS quarterly functions on the calendar year, January through December. We ended the 2009 year with 362 subscribers. This included the 26 exchanges and 4 gifts. We printed 400 issues each quarter. Two volumes are normally catalogued into the OGS Library each year. We also sometimes give a complimentary issue copy to someone who donates a major article. We also provide 3 issues each quarter to the indexers and 1 copy for the editor. At the end of this year we had 23 volumes left in inventory.

The yearly subscription charge is \$15. After the year is over, back volumes are sold for \$10. We normally do not sell single issues but will provide one to a library should they contact us that they are missing an issue or a subscriber when extras are available (\$4.00).

The average cost of mailing a back volume is \$5.00 but it depends where in the US it is going and which year as some are heavier than others. We paid \$7.60 to California in December 2009. To mail a single issue it is \$ 1.68. We mail by bulk mail and in December 2009 we mailed 381 pieces for \$161.47 or an average of .43 cents per issue. We try to avoid mailing issues first class if it can be avoided due to the high cost.

In 2009 we spent for printing about the same as in 2008 by using coupons and some Rewards from Office Depot. Our envelopes are costing a little more and we have gone to a lighter weight which helps with weight when bulk mailing.

We continue to receive a few donations of articles, however the editor's backlog of articles is very sparse! We need good family sheets with documentation for our Genealogies editor, currently we don't have one, and Bible records pertaining to the Missouri Ozarks. We started in 2007 a column of six pages each quarter titled "Happenings From The Past" for 75, 100 and 125 years ago which seems to be of interest to our subscribers.

Our volunteers that help with the proofing and mailing have declined in 2009. We only had eight people help us the last 2 mailings.

We mail at the change of the seasons. Late March, June, September, and December. Our Editorial board is listed on the back of the quarterly along with the various OGS volunteers who help assemble and mail the quarterly. A copy of the OZAR'KIN current inventory for Dec. 31, 2009 is attached.

Melba Rector, OZAR'KIN EDITOR

**OZAR'KIN INVENTORY\* Dec. 31, 2009**

<b>Year &amp; Vol</b>	<b>Original cost</b>	<b>Inventory Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Value</b>
1979 - I	5.17	2	\$ 10.34
1980 - II	5.17	10	51.70
1981 - III	5.17	16	82.72
1982 - IV	5.17	90	465.30
1983 - V	5.17	67	346.39
1984 - VI	3.10	33	102.30
1985 - VII	3.10	14	43.40
1986 - VIII	3.10	96	297.60
1987 - IX	3.10	126	390.60
1988 - X	3.10	49	151.90
1989 - XI	3.10	53	164.10
1990 - XII	3.10	113	350.30
1991 - XIII	3.10	71	220.80
1992 - XIV	3.40	83	282.20
1993 - XV	3.40	152	516.80
1994 - XVI	3.40	140	476.00
1995 - XVII	3.40	108	367.20
1996 - XVIII	3.80	159	604.20
1997 - XIX	3.80	121	459.80
1998 - XX	3.80	200	760.00
1999 - XXI	4.48	142	627.20
2000 - XXII	4.32	115	496.80
2001 - XXIII	4.40	91	400.40
2002 - XXIV	4.40	23	92.40
2003 - XXV	7.25	22	158.75
2004 - XXVI	6.45	9	58.05
2005 - XXVII	5.44	10	54.40
2006 - XXVIII	6.46	8	51.68
2007 - XXIX	4.37	8	34.96
2008 - XXX	5.21	5	26.05
2009 - XXXI	5.24	23	120.52
<b>Index - 10 yr index</b>	<b>.82</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>79.54</b>

out of print

**Total \$8344.40**

- Still keeping 2 volumes of each year in reserve
- \*\* 3 volumes were pulled from inventory and bound for OGS Library

14 back volumes were sold in 2009  
(4 were Vol XVI (1994) Diary of Isaac Howard)

### The Beginnings of Ozar'kin and Special Publications

By Hazel Voris

In June of 1979, Vol. 1 No 1, the first issue of *Ozar'kin* rolled off the mimeograph machine. The remaining three issues of Volume 1 were completed in the remaining six months of 1979. Our first editor was John D. Gifford, the business manager was William L. (Bill) Wood and other committee members included Emily Barr, Mary Ellen Gifford and Vera Wood. The first three years *Ozar'kin* was mimeographed. *Ozar'kin* was an immediate success and many others contributed time and talent in writing articles, typing, proof reading, indexing, collating, mailing, etc.

In Ralph Shaw's 1979 president's message it states that the society had about 180 members. In 1980 *Ozar'kin* subscriptions were reported as 514 and were mailed to thirty-five states. Today, in our 26<sup>th</sup> year of publishing, we have 495 subscribers, including exchanges, and it is mailed to forty-two states. Our current society membership is 488, which remains separate from *Ozar'kin* subscriptions.

Editor: John Gifford 1979 - 1987  
Editor: Marsha Rising 1987 - December 1989  
Editor: Melba Rector 1990 - 2015



First issue of OZAR'KIN to be collated, proofed, and stapled in our new building - Mar 21, 1988



Walking the table to collate the Spring issue for 1988 - the first issue put together and mailed in our new building

## HALL COLLECTION

The Dr. William Kearney Hall Collection was known as the Hall Papers or as the Hall Index.

**November 18, 1970** during the regular OGS meeting, reference librarian Mrs. Mildred Roblee mentioned the scrapbook created by Dr. Hall for 1940-1960 was available on 10 reels of microfilm at the library with the first two being indexed.



**Newsletter February 1987** "Dr. William K. Hall retired doctor of St. Louis contacted our Society to see if we would like to publish his abstracts from the Springfield Newspapers. He has abstracted and indexed genealogical data from 1865 to 1909. Yes we would be happy to publish his 3300 plus pages of typed newspaper abstract and index. We contacted him with our answer and he wonders if we would also want to sell his book that was published in the 1960s. *Springfield, Greene County, Missouri Inhabitants in 1880*. It is a yellow hardback book of 405 pages and he had approximately 100 copies.

Hazle Tyler, Publications Chairman, and I (Hazel Voris) made a trip to St. Louis and picked up all the boxes of material. By this time, he had decided to give us his collection of *Genealogical Helpers* which starts with Vol. 2, 1948. Fantastic! Fantastic! Dr. Hall, Thank You! Thank You!"

On another page of newsletter, it stated Dr. Hall granted OGS permission to publish and copyright the material. OGS is to receive any profit from sale of 100 books. This book may be reprinted, but Dr. Hall is to receive credit as the compiler. Price of book is \$20.

Many OGS volunteers assisted with Dr. Hall's abstracts.

### **Newsletter July 1987**

Dear Mrs. Voris:

Proud? You bet I am! I think you people did a magnificent job. It is superb! It looks so professional. The binding, the clean white pages (not smudged as some of mine were), the proper margins, everything is just perfection. I do not see how it could be improved in any way. I am certainly glad I had the sense to donate the abstracts to you. You not only rescued them from oblivion but you have improved them tremendously. I am very, very pleased!!!!

I only hope you sell enough of them to justify the time you must have spent on them. I don't see how you whipped them into such good shape in such a short time. You must have a devoted crew of many people or else the few must have put in many, many hours. Tell them I think they did a marvelous piece of work.

And thanks for sending me the copies. I knew you would do a good job but I had no idea it would be that good. So it was a revelation to get the books and discover how excellent they are. It really makes me feel good to know that the hours I spent squinting at microfilm are appreciated and resulted in something that will be helpful in the future to those interested in Springfield history.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Yours truly,

Will Hall

**1990** Dr. Hall presented his collection of Springfield newspaper clippings, 1939-1978, to OGS. He also donated three file cabinets and contents, 35 reels of microfilm, and 57 reels of extra microfilm.

**1992** OGS members were working on Dr. Hall's original *Springfield Newspaper* clippings from 1939 - 1940 and 1942-1978. This also includes every name index for each year. The 1979–1990 volumes will be donated after Dr. Hall has them microfilmed.

**October 6, 1993 Minutes** Librarian Doug Corbin said Dr. Hall has given OGS a new set of eight hardback books containing the *Springfield Newspaper* indexes. As this is a duplication of what we have, the question arises as to what to do with the other set? (46 volumes). After discussion, the consensus was to first offer it to the Christian County Library at Ozark, Missouri. If they decline we can offer it to a major state library.

**October 11, 1993 Minutes** Jody Clifton announced OGS has received the donation of a nice hardbound eight-volume set of Dr. Hall's 1939-1991 index books of Springfield newspaper clippings.

**November 3, 1993 Minutes** Hazel Voris said Dr. Hall had donated the 1911–1916 index to the *Springfield Republican* newspaper.

Bettie Hickman asked for permission to dispose of "old" Springfield paper obituaries that were indexed by Dr. Hall which are on microfilm and in notebooks. After discussion, approval was given to dispose of the duplicate Springfield newspaper obituaries.

**March 2001** Dr. Hall donated some of his extra Springfield history books to OGS and gave permission for the books to be sold and the monies kept by OGS. During the following years, he continued to donate files, old genealogical journals and *Ozark Mountaineers*, letters, newspaper clippings, worksheets and odd bits of information. He was most generous in expanding the collection.

Dr. Hall donated books and other items to several libraries and repositories in Missouri as well as the DAR Society in Washington D. C.

**April 6, 2011** "A \$20,000 donation from the estate of William K Hall for the digitization project has been given. Lynn Shelley has suggested to "pass the hat" at the business meeting for individuals who wish to donate for the digitization of the scrapbooks at OGS. This money cannot go through the OGS treasury, but we can give members an opportunity to give if they so desire."

**May 3, 2011** TLC has received a microform reader-printer from the estate of Dr. Hall. TLC has offered it to OGS. It comes with a table. Per June 2011 meeting, a Minolta RP606Z microfilm/fiche printer/reader serial 36488 was obtained.

**2016** The Hall Papers (scrapbooks stored in the five file cabinets) were donated to The Library Center. TLC will be digitizing the scrapbooks and will create a database for these records. The empty file cabinets were then moved inside the locked room, providing more floor space for the OGS Library. The scrapbooks created by Dr. Hall are safely stored at TLC.

**December 2017** John Carter agreed to put the Hall Papers Index on the computers in the OGS Library. Later John reported the index was too large.



Regarding The Hall Papers located at The Library Center Local History and Genealogy Department: “You will notice a rainbow hue of thick books bound in a wide assortment of crayon-colored covers, about 39 linear feet of shelving packed with what staff appreciatively and respectfully refer to as Dr. Hall’s Index. These 25 volumes represent one of the most important and valuable tools for those involved with genealogy. These books contain something like 3 million clipping of obituaries, marriages, births, and divorce announcements printed in Springfield newspapers between 1865 and 2006.”

Jeanne Duffey, “Dr. Hall’s Index offers unique research tool,” *Springfield News Leader*, Springfield, MO, January 4, 2009.



Dr. Hall signed agreements with OGS related to his collection and copies of the agreements and correspondence can be found in the OGS Office locked files.

Dr. William K. Hall died in 2011, Find A Grave Memorial #115114521, Hazelwood Cemetery.



### **William K. Hall**

William K. Hall was born October 9, 1918, in Springfield, Mo., the son of Edward B. Hall and Mary (Kearney) Hall. He died March 2, 2011, at the age of 92. He attended Springfield schools and then earned a BS degree from Yale University (class of 1939) and an MD degree from Harvard Medical School (class of 1942). He joined the Navy and served 20 years, retiring in 1962 as a Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy.

Dr. Hall then entered private practice as a dermatologist in St. Charles, Mo., retiring in 1982. He was a diplomat of the American Board of Dermatology, an assistant professor of medicine in dermatology, emeritus, at Washington University School of Medicine, and an emeritus staff member of Barnes Hospital.

William Hall's avocation was Springfield, Mo. history. He compiled an index of the city's newspaper obituaries from 1865 through 2008. He also published a book, "Springfield, Greene County, Missouri Inhabitants in 1880", and compiled genealogies of the following families: Hall, Bennington, Bussing, Perkins, Simms, and Delaney. Copies of these books are in the Springfield Library and the Library of Congress.

William Hall never married. He is predeceased by his brother Edward B. Hall and sister Jean H. Seyfarth. He is survived two nephews (Harold E. Hall and Stephen B. Hall) and five nieces (Michal Lindblad, Marion Erwin, Elizabeth Black, Susan Hall and Jane Hall). Other relatives (descendants of Guy Richardson) still live in the Springfield, Mo. area, including in the house at 1351 N. Benton, where William Hall grew up. That house has been owned by the family since its purchase in 1896 by Michael and Mary Kearney, whose grandchildren include William Hall and Guy Richardson.

Memorial gifts may be mailed to The Library Foundation, Attn: Dr. Hall Memorial, PO Box 760, Springfield MO 65801-0760 or made online at [yourlibraryfoundation.org](http://yourlibraryfoundation.org). Remembrances can be shared at [wmkhalld.wikispaces.com](http://wmkhalld.wikispaces.com).

## **BEFORE 1850 PROJECT**

An important project was started during 1978 which resulted in vital information about the families who moved into Greene County before 1850. The *Before 1850 Project* was the first project for OGS and Bonnie Shaw was the committee chairperson. This project was part of the Missouri 1979 Sesquicentennial Celebration.

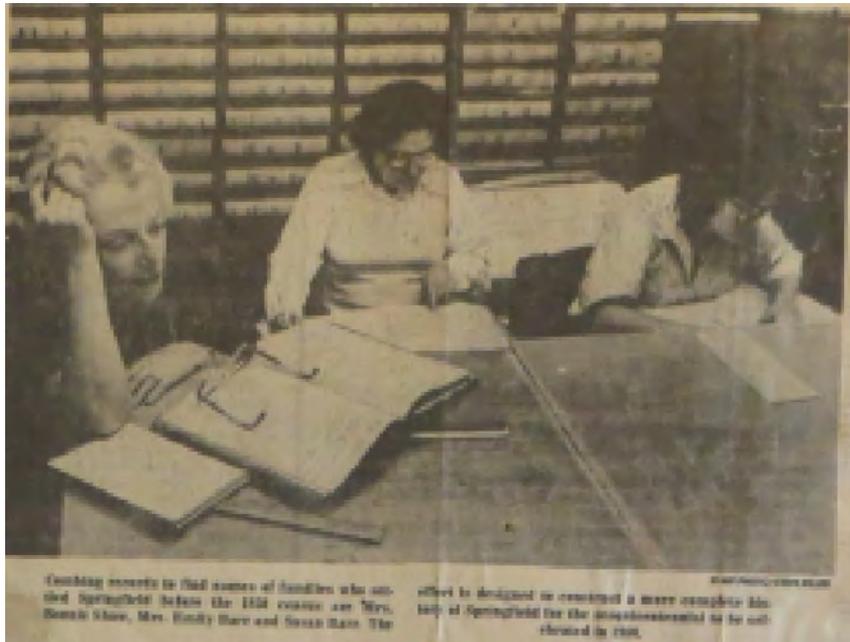
Many articles were printed in the local newspapers requesting readers to submit their family names and history to OGS and many did.

One result of this project is the hand-written pages of the *1833 Tax List*. Those pages have been framed and are on display in the OGS Library.

**June 1978 Minutes** As a Club Project, Bonnie Shaw proposed members fill out family group sheets of those families living in Greene County in 1850.

**August 1978 Minutes** Members of the *Before 1850 Project* committee were Bonnie Shaw, Emily Barr, George Findley and Mary Cunningham. Members who joined later were James Bane, Lena Wills, Mary Woody, Marion Demore, Frances Curry, and Linda Everett. The goal was to prepare a book available for the Sesquicentennial.

**November 29, 1978 newspaper** Pictured are: Mrs. Bonnie Shaw, Mrs. Emily Barr and Susan Barr.



## April 1979 newsletter

SPRINGFIELD'S SESQUICENTENNIAL . . . . The society accepted the motion of the "Before 1850" Committee to turn over certain of their early Springfield records to the Newsletter Committee for a special Springfield issue. A joint meeting of the two committees resulted in an overall plan for this commemoration of Springfield's beginnings. Mid-June is the target date for publication.

**Before 1850 committee** Report Over 355 group sheets were collected as of June 1979 with the final count about 2000.

The first two editions of **OZAR'KIN** in 1979 were Sesquicentennial collector's editions which dealt with Greene County families prior to 1850. The goal was to publish a book. Instead, it appears, OGS published the information in the **OZAR'KIN**.

**1979** Picture shows Vera Wood, Ralph and Bonnie Shaw holding copies of **OZAR'KIN**.

The family group sheets gleaned from this project are in 3-ring binders in the OGS Library entitled **Pioneer Families of the Ozarks**.



August 8, 1979

Report of the "Before 1850 Committee"

A major Project started at the beginning of our present president's term of office has been completed. This has been extracting early records from the first book of land records in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Greene Co., Missouri. This compilation is not the complete book. It embraces only those entries of land records that were filed before 1850.

This extraction of names before 1850 had to first be copied by hand from the original book. Then they were proof read and the Land Warrant number picked up and added as this had been neglected at the first copy. After these steps, the committee started the long process of alphabetizing. Mildred Dodd finished up the alphabetizing. As you learn by doing, we were half way thru the extracting when I began to wish each of the girls that worked so many hours and days had kept track of the number of hours they actually put in to this project.

A member of our society who had volunteered to help tho she was not a member of the committee was kind in giving her hand to type this when I was unable to do so because of my hand. Her name is Rowena Ball. This book is thirty-one pages long and is single spaced.

This listing has been proof read by members of the committee and completed by Mary Cunningham.

In a short time we will have completed an index file of these early land records by township, range and section so that you that have ancestors in Greene County, Missouri as it is now, will be able to tell who your ancestor's neighbors were.

We have already presented a copy of our alphabetized early land records to Mr. Russell Keller, Recorder of Deeds and I am now presenting a copy to Mrs. Gustalson who represents the Springfield Greene County Library. This is being presented in the name of The Ozarks Genealogical Society. The committee and I are also presenting a copy to Melba Rector, the chairman of our library committee for the use of the society members.

We are progressing with our indexing slowly. The rate of receipt of family group sheets has fallen off. I wish there was a way in which we all could reach out to these descendants of these early pioneers as we did to our friends in telling them about our new quarterly, "The Ozar'kin", to tell these descendants about our project. Perhaps "The Ozar'kin" will do this for us.

I personally want to thank all the members of the committee for the time and effort they have devoted to the preservation of records of those people that were in no way connected with their own lines. Thank you all for helping to make this project a successful one in this past year. Also, I want to thank those of you that have given of your time even tho you were not a member of the committee. Thank you all.

Bonnie J. Shaw, Chairperson  
**"Before 1850 Project"**

*The Springfield News and Leader*, Springfield, Missouri, July 22, 1979.

“Early Land records published: A 31 page book entitled “Early Land Records of Present Day Greene County, Missouri” has been completed by the Before 1850 Project Committee of the Ozarks Genealogical Society. The 12-member committee, headed by Bonnie J. Shaw, copied and alphabetized for easy reference all the before 1850 entries from the first book of land records of the county in County Recorder of Deeds Russell Keller’s office. Mrs. Shaw said she believes the new book will eliminate excessive handling of the old land records book by those interested in early transactions. Copies of the new publication will be in the Greene County Library, Keller’s office and the office of the genealogical society located at 1967 S. Lone Pine.” (home of Bonnie Shaw)

A copy of this book can be found at the OGS Library and on the OGS Store where a digital copy can be purchased. The names of the committee members are listed on the title page.

The society received a certificate for their involvement in the Sesquicentennial Project.



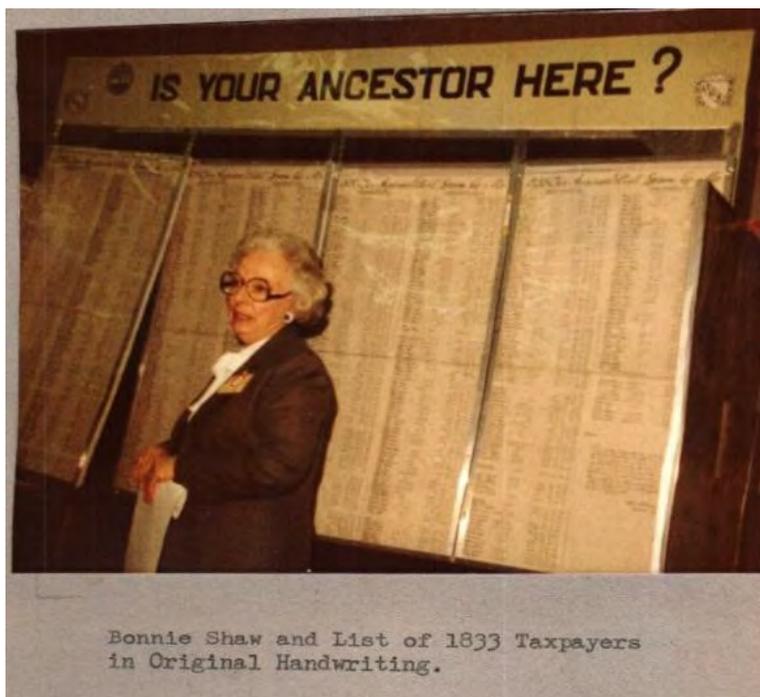
**September 2003 newsletter** “In 1978 Bonnie Shaw co-chaired the Before 1850 Committee in connection with the Missouri Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1979. Later these records were known as “Pioneer Families of the Missouri Ozarks.” This was a committee of twelve which in a very short time amassed a vast quantity of historical and genealogical material. Among their sources was the 1833 Greene County Tax List, which Bonnie carefully copied on huge canvas. During the 1983 Greene County Sesquicentennial this was on display, along with other materials, as a traveling exhibit in several locations including the Greene County courthouse. It now graces a wall in our newly-refurbished OGS library, reminding us of a special time.”

## 1833 TAX LIST

One result of the *Before 1850 Project* is the hand-written pages of the 1833 Tax List which is on display on the east wall of the OGS Library.

The 1833 Tax List of names can also be found in the OZAR'KIN Volume 1 Number 2, summer 1979 pages 63-67. A copy of this list is being placed on the computers at the OGS Library and will be in a 3-ring binder with other historical items.

**August 1982 newsletter** The Greene County Court is planning to honor Greene County with a Sesquicentennial Celebration in the spring of 1983. A Committee was to be appointed with the chair to serve as the liaison.



Bonnie Shaw and List of 1833 Taxpayers in Original Handwriting.

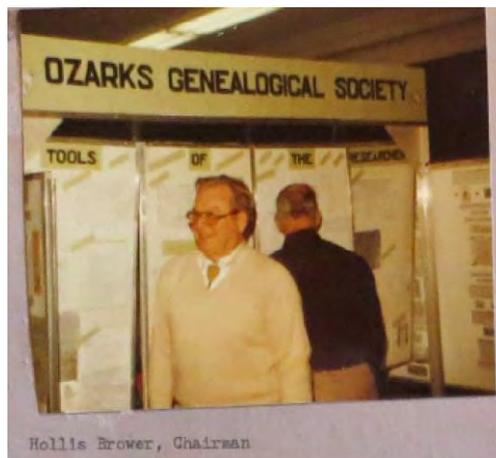
**1983 April newsletter** “From the President – Our OGS program on March 9, 1983 from our Sesquicentennial Committee was enjoyed by all who were in attendance. This is a portable display with emphasis on: The 1833 Tax Payers List of Greene County in the original handwriting, a Map Display illustrating the forming of Greene County, Facts & Figures of OGS and some examples of Tools of the Researcher.

Should you want to view the exhibit, it will be on display in various locations these next 2 months.

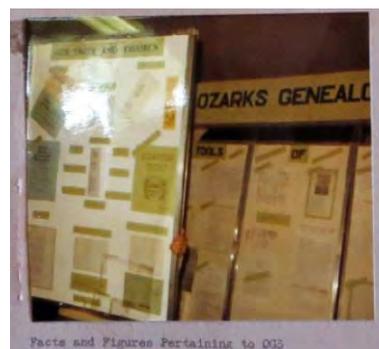
Some locations and dates which have been scheduled are:

Kearney Street Library	March 21 – 25, 1983
Republic Library	March 20 – April 1, 1983
Brentwood Library	April 4 – 6, 1983
North Town Mall	April 11 – April 16, 1983
Battlefield Mall	April 18 – April 22, 1983
Shrine Mosque on St. Louis St.	April 23

If you would like to help with this exhibit (and volunteers are needed) contact one of the committee: Hollis Brower, Imogene Bennett, Marion Demore, Mildred Dodd, and Bonnie Shaw.”  
– Melba Rector, President.



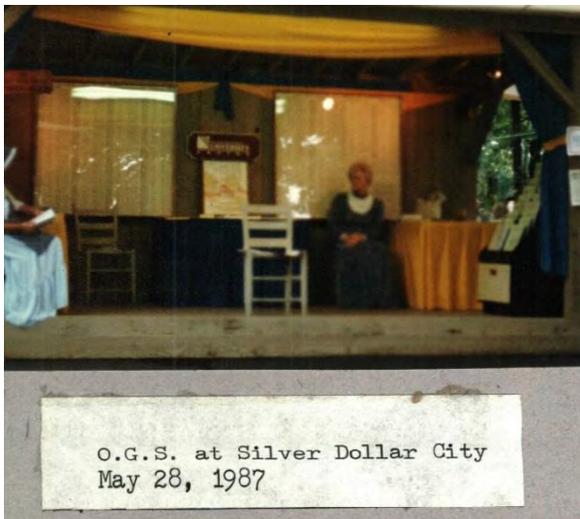
Hollis Brower, Chairman



Facts and Figures Pertaining to OGS



1986 picture of the 1833 Tax List on the wall of the **OGS Center** located on Pershing Street.



**May-June 1987 newsletter** White River Valley Historical Society wished to borrow the 1833 Tax List to use during the Folklore Festival at Silver Dollar City. In exchange for using the Tax List, the Society framed it for OGS. Nine OGS members participated by giving handouts to guests visiting the booth.

1833 Tax List was loaned to Taney County Public Library in June and to the White River Valley Historical Society in July for viewing at the School of The Ozarks. OGS brochures and literature was also available.



## **MIGRATION CARD PROJECT**

**August 1994 newsletter** "The card file was begun in 1989 by our subscribers on families moving to the southwest Missouri Ozarks from the area of the USA before 1900. The file is kept at our OGS Library for reference and research. Purpose of this project is to help in identifying migration patterns to the southwest Missouri counties. Several people have also made contact with others researching the same lines. Have you submitted your ancestors yet? Deadline this year for the material to be printed in **OZAR'KIN** is 15 August 1994. See page 82 last issue of the quarterly for particulars and sample of the card to submit. Be sure and include ALL info requested." **OZAR'KIN** editorial staff



### ***Sample card***

PIONEER NAME: DANFORTH, Josiah Findly  
OZARKS HOME: Springfield, Greene Co., MO  
OZARKS SETTLEMENT DATE & FIRST RECORD: 1830 Census  
Gasconade Co., MO  
PREVIOUS HOME: Kingston, Roane Co., TN  
DATE & LAST RECORDS: 9 Dec. 1830 Kingston, Roane Co., TN  
Marriage Record to Letitia Prater  
Submitted by: Gale A. Cottrell  
29 Green Lake Drive  
Orchard Park, NY 14127      AUG 15 1992

### **Migration Cards for OZAR'KIN**

The purpose of this ongoing project was to identify migration patterns of our various families to the southwest Missouri counties prior to 1900. This file is kept at our OGS Library for reference and research.

The Fall issue of **OZAR'KIN** each year, 1989-1995, includes the previously published lists. See **OZAR'KIN** Volume XVII No. 2 (Summer 1996), page 80 for how cards should be submitted. Be sure to include the specific County and State of the old home and the last record you have that documents this. Please include the first record citation and date for the new home in the Ozarks.

The Migration Cards are still in the OGS Library.

## THE OBITUARY PROJECT

In 1981, *The Obituary Project* a new project was started by the OGS Research Committee chaired by Inabell Williams and in 1982 an appeal was made for members to keep area small town papers. Edna Campbell and Grace Anderson started clipping obituaries from the Springfield newspapers, putting the clipped obituaries in envelopes, which they filed and indexed.

### September 1982 newsletter

BOLIVAR HERALD - FREE PRESS, Betty Ammerman; CASSVILLE REPUBLICAN, Alice Varner; CLINTON DAILY DEMOCRAT, Richard J. Hulsey; MILLER PRESS, Dora Miller; GHEENFIELD VEDETTE, Marv Ellen Gifford; HUMANSVILLE STAR LEADER, Lorene Clayton; MARSHFIELD MAIL, Inabell Williams; TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN, Bill & Vera Wood; ASH GROVE COMMONWEALTH, DOUGLAS COUNTY HERALD, OZARK COUNTY TIMES. WEST PLAINS DAILY QUILL, STANDARD NEWS (Mountain Grove, MO), all from Irene Redfearn; CRANE CHRONICLE, HERMITAGE INDEX, CEDAR COUNTY REPUBLICAN, MONETT TIMES, JOPLIN GLOBE. The contributors for these last five papers were not available at press time.

In 1985, the Board approved the *Obituary Project* to become the Obituary Committee. It was no longer under the Research Committee. Bettie Hickman continued to serve as chairman until Imogene Bennett became committee chair in 2005.

### October 1986 newsletter

#### OBITUARY COMMITTEE - First Annual Report

In the fall of 1985 an Obituary Committee was appointed. Their objective was to determine the future of the obits that have been saved since 1981.

The committee was: Bettie Hickman, Chairman; Hazel Voris, President; and Irene Redfearn, Bess Scott, Frances Daniel, and Inabell Williams.

At the first meeting we set our goal to make the obits available to the members in a usable form. We decided to continue indexing the obits from the Springfield papers but to discontinue clipping them since they are available on film at the library. We agreed to prepare a computer index for each year by combining those from the Springfield newspapers. One year is now in the process of being completed.

In the second and third meetings, we studied and experimented with the tremendous collection from the area newspapers. We decided to continue clipping and mounting than on 3x5 index cards and to cover them with tape to preserve them. We now have 3500-4000 cards finished and filed in the card cabinet which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Compton and is housed in the library room at the OGS Center.

Irene Redfearn has been doing the Greene County papers. These include: ASH GROVE COMMONWEALTH and the REPUBLIC MONITOR. She plans to start on the BOLIVAR HERALD AND FREE PRESS from Polk County very soon.

Frances Daniel has done obits from the LAWRENCE COUNTY RECORD, MILLER FREE PRESS, and the MARIONVILLE FREE PRESS (all from Lawrence County). She has completed four years of obits.

Bess Scott has been doing Webster County. This includes MARSHFIELD MAIL, WEBSTER COUNTY CITIZEN, and others.

I have worked on the OZARK HEADLINER from Christian County.

Several counties remain untouched so we need volunteers to work on this project. If you can help, please let us know.

I would like to thank Bess Scott, Frances Daniel, and Irene Redfearn especially for their hard work and determination in perfecting the system and in getting the first ones completed. I would also like to thank Hazel Voris and Rodney Lewis for the work they are doing on the computer. My thanks also go to Mary Ellen Gifford and Pauline Huffman for their help in filing the cards in alphabetical order in the cabinet.

To those of you who are saving the obits from the papers, -THANK YOU! I will not attempt to name all of you----- You are doing a great job.

- Bettie Hickman, Obituary Committee Chm.

**August 13, 2014** Rita Wallace presented a program on the Obituary Committee to bring awareness of this project. According to Rita, in 1991, Bettie Hickman chair of the obit committee, reported they were still saving obituaries and placing them on 3x5 cards for filing in the cabinet at the OGS Library.

Imogene Bennett took over the Obituaries project on October 5, 2005. At that time, 10 boxes of clipped obituaries - some on cards, and others in envelopes - were ready and were given to Imogene.

In 2011, John Carter and Debbie Creed started scanning the cards from the OGS files. John has scanned A – C and Debbie has completed T- Z. John uploaded the scanned obituaries to the computer at the OGS Library for use by library patrons. Rita did a rough estimate of how many of these cards were left to scan and determined it to be about 20,000.

Patti Hobbs explained how the indexing program is being used for the obituaries: now OGS members can access the obituaries via the *members section* of the OGS website.

**August 2014** Imogene reported a total of 50,000 obits have been scanned and placed on the computer at the OGS Library with 3,842 of those being scanned between May 7 and August 6.

**February 2015 Council Meeting** John Carter reported there are about 7,000 indexed obituaries online and over 50,000 searchable on the computers at the OGS Library.

**November 2, 2016 Council Meeting** Connie Daughtrey, Obituary Committee chair reported a total of 76,957 obituaries.

During **2018**, committee members met every two weeks to scan obituaries. Several decisions were made during these scanning days.

It was decided to scan:

- ALL the 3 x 5 cards stored in the metal cabinet
- ALL the obituaries clipped and placed inside of envelopes
- ALL obituaries found in the boxes of local newspapers (needed to be clipped)
- To NOT scan obituaries dated after 2015
- AND, It was important to complete the project

Concern was expressed by the members of the committee regarding limited access to these obituaries for general research, as they were only available on the computers at the OGS Library and only two days a week.

**February 8, 2018 Council Meeting** Brian Grubbs, Manager for the Local History & Genealogy Department at The Library Center was approached about placing the OGS Obituary Collection on their website. He spoke to the Council and outlined an exciting possibility.

**August 1, 2018 Council Meeting** To date, 105,000 obituaries have been scanned and placed on the computers at the OGS Library.

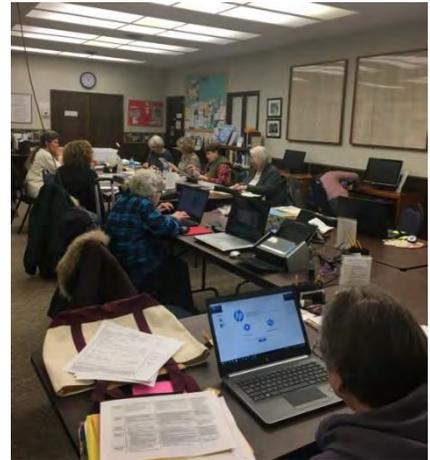
**December 2018 Board Meeting** Connie Daughtrey presented the contract between OGS and Springfield-Greene County's Local History & Genealogy Department (TLC) which was approved and signed. An Obituary Database Project will be developed in two phases. The 105,000 + pdf files will be added to the database first. When the committee members complete scanning the remainder of the

obituaries in jpg files, these will be added to the database. Access to the Library database will be available free of charge with no library card needed. All scanned obituaries, both in pdf and jpeg, will be available on the computers at the OGS Library. The Obituary Database Project between OGS and TLC should be completed in 2019 for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

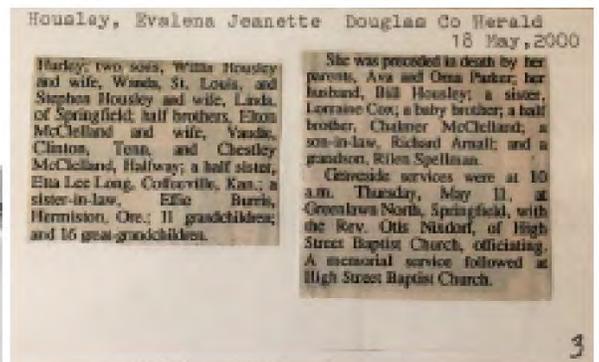
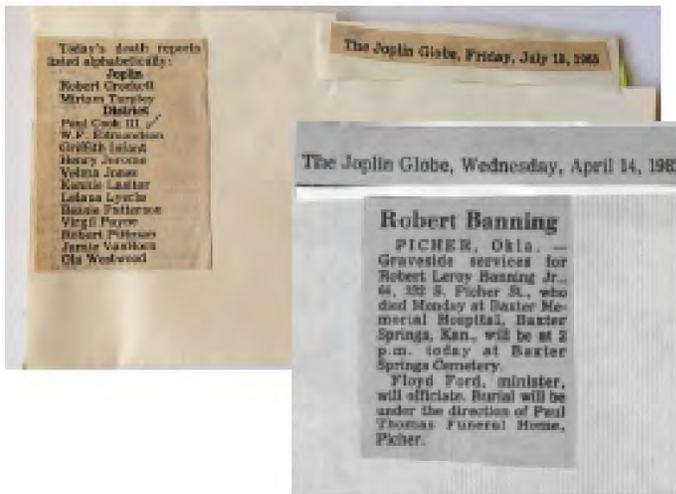
Scan Days are on Friday – twice a month from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Members bring their personal scanners which takes a few minutes to set up. There is a box filled with newspapers from the local area with obituaries needing to be clipped. Another box contains the clipped obituaries waiting to be scanned. The third box holds the scanned and indexed obituaries.

When the database is created and online, these completed obituaries will be placed in the archives of The Library Center’s Local History and Genealogy Department.

Note the computers located on the east wall where the obituaries will be available.



**Envelopes which hold clipped obituaries**



## **ROOTS FOR KIDS PROJECT**

**June 1994 newsletter** “At the May Business Meeting, members approved the Board and Council’s recommendation to present a copy of *Roots for Kids* to each R12 District elementary school. Fifth graders research their own families’ histories in conjunction with American history classes. Since many teachers aren’t familiar with genealogical methods and record keeping, it’s in keeping with our long term educational goals to start budding genealogists on the right track. Members are invited to sponsor book purchases for schools where they have a personal interest. Each sponsorship costs five dollars, the books approximate wholesale cost. The R12 District has 42 schools. We’ll use OGS funds to supplement whenever money isn’t donated. Members are also invited to donate books to private schools or schools in other districts. Doug Corbin will handle book acquisition. Mail your donation along with the school’s name you wish to sponsor to Hazle Tyler, Treasurer or leave it in her box at the OGS library. Make your donation as soon as possible, so books are in the libraries when school starts.”

**August 1994 newsletter** “The *Roots for Kids* project went very well. We’ve collected \$135 total for book donations to schools. Some donations were for other counties and one for a private schools, all others were for the Springfield R-12 District. Those who donated money for this project are: Betty Ammerman, Grace Anderson, Delores Biggers, Julie Beyer-Arnot, Jody Clifton, Bernadine Crews, Peggy Culbertson, Fannie Frank, Gene Hendricks, Barbara Jensen, Sue Lawley, Evelyn Looney, Sandra Love, Mona Maybee, Mildred McKee, Lucy Ortner, Irene Redfearn, Connie Rogers, Hazle Tyler, Ann Walker, and Bill and Vera Wood.” – Hazle Tyler, Treasurer. Additional donors include: George Harper, Bettie Hickman, Dorothy Mahan, Melba Rector, Mary Swann, and Hazel Voris.

Close to 36 members purchased and donated a book to schools in Greene County and surrounding counties. With discounted pricing, the cost was about \$4.61 for 42 schools. OGS received a letter from school system thanking OGS for the books. List of schools is printed in the 1995 newsletter. These are only a few of the locations: “Christian, Chadwick, Sparta, Lockwood, Dadeville, Halfway, Humansville, Niangua, and Marshfield Schools.”

### **August 1994 OGS newsletter**

Barbara Jensen reported that the *Roots for Kids* books have been delivered to the Springfield R-12 School District on 3 August.” A thank you letter was received from the school district.

# Springfield Public Schools

KRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

August 4, 1994

Ms Barbara Jensen, President  
Ozarks Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 3494 G.S.  
Springfield, MO 65808

Dear Ms Jensen:

On behalf of the Springfield R-12 School District staff and students I want to thank your organization for their donation of the book Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People.

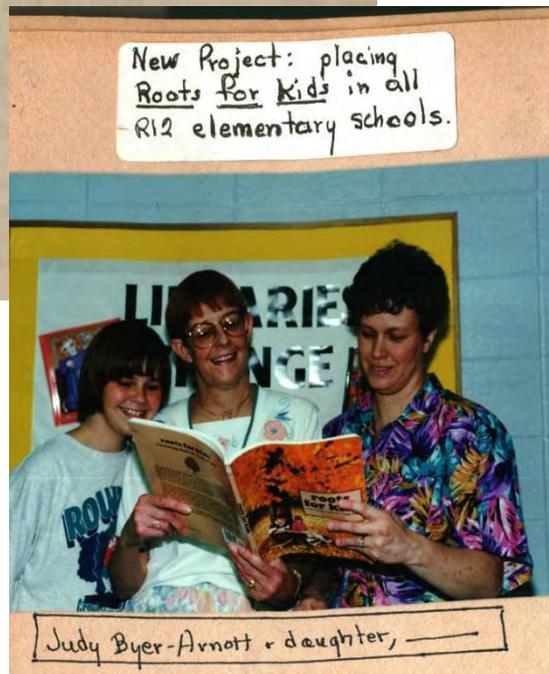
This book will make a nice addition to our libraries and I am sure that the fifth grade teachers will enjoy having it to use with their students as they study their American history unit.

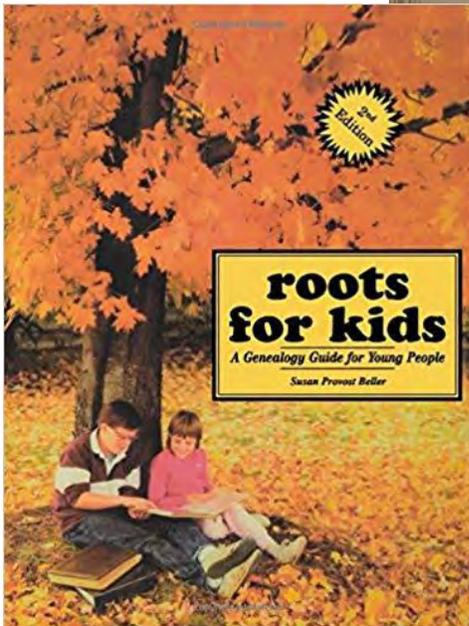
Sincerely,

*Mary K. Carson*

Mary K. Carson, Supervisor  
Library/Media

CC: Joyce Munden





Sept. 12  
 Dear Ms. Jensen and members of the  
 Ozarks Genealogical Society,  
 Thank you so much for the  
 book, *Roots for Kids*, that you  
 donated to our school library.  
 I have shown it to the 5th  
 grade teachers and they are  
 excited about using it. It is  
 an important addition to the  
 Gray Library.  
 Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
 Linda Cooper  
 Librarian

Happy Gram



Dear Ozark genealogical society,  
 Thank you for donating a book  
 to our library. It looks really  
 neat!

Sincerely,  
 Barbara Jensen  
 Librarian

The *Roots for Kids Project* was mentioned in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary article in *Springfield Magazine*, September 1994, pages 30 – 31.

**February 1995 OGS newsletter** “At our January meeting the subject of further donations of the book *Roots for Kids* was raised. All elementary schools in the Springfield R-12 District were included in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Some individuals purchased books for other schools in Greene County and surrounding counties. We have already had offers to supply books for more schools both in and out of Greene County. This is a wonderful idea.

**May 1995 OGS newsletter** “Update on the *Roots for Kids Project*: the books have not been ordered yet. The Librarian attempted to order them but they were unavailable. Barbara Jensen will write a cover letter for each book to be distributed: “This book is a gift to (fill in donor’s name) who is a member of the Ozarks Genealogical Society”. The letter will include information about using the book and why it is important. Almost 60 members have volunteered to give books. Schools not covered are Chadwick and Sparta in Christian County. Lockwood and Dadeville and Dade County. Halfway and Humansville in Polk County. Niangua and one Marshfield school in Webster County.”

### President's message

At the business meeting on 8 February the membership voted to continue *Roots For Kids* project to supply books to the remaining schools in Greene and the immediate surrounding counties. The response has already been terrific. The list of schools and the people who have signed up to donate appears below.

As you may notice, people have volunteered to supply books to schools outside the area covered by the Society. That is great. I'm constantly thinking about the future and wondering where genealogists will come from in this changing world where families live miles apart and don't really have a sense of place. The sooner we get young people involved in this lifelong study, the better.

I want to remind everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours and turn the form in to Doug with their *choice of a book* for the Society to buy. People who volunteer know that they get more than they give, but we think they deserve a special reward for the hours of work which keeps this organization functioning.

Barbara

### Donations of Roots For Kids in Missouri Counties.

#### Christian County

Chadwick  
Sparta  
Billings-Judi Beyer-Arnott  
Ozark-Cleona Doran  
Clever-Marcella Roberts  
Spokane  
Nixa-Cleona Doran (2)

#### Dade County

Lockwood  
Dadeville

#### OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

President: Barbara Jensen  
Editor: Judie Beyer-Arnott  
Composing Editor: Hayward Barnett  
Guest Proofreader: Barbara Jensen  
Assembling & Mailing: Jim and Elaine Evans  
Staff: Donald Blades, Bernadine Crews, Elaine Evans, James Evans, Betty Hunt, Connie Martin, David Payne, Rhodora Prochaska

Everton-George Harper  
Greenfield-Connie Rogers

#### Dallas County

Buffalo-Nancy Edwards (2)

#### Lawrence County

Miller-M. Maxine Allen (3)  
Pierce City- "  
Marionville- "  
Mt. Vernon- "  
Aurora- "  
Verona- "

#### Polk County

Bolivar-Nancy Edwards (2)  
Fair Play-Betty Ammerman  
Humansville

#### Webster County

Niangua  
Fordland  
Marshfield (2)  
Seymour

#### Dent County

Salem-Marcella Roberts

#### Douglas County

Skyline-Inabell Williams

#### Laclede County

Lebanon-Pauline Huffman  
Conway "

#### Wright County

Hartville-Pauline Huffman  
Grovespring "  
Mansfield-Dorothy Mahan  
Norwood "

#### Ozark County

Gainesville-Sally McAlear  
Theodosia "

#### Greene County Schools not covered previously

Republic-Bonnie Shaw (3)  
Walnut Grove-Nancy Edwards  
Willard-Dorothy Mahnan  
Fair Grove-John & Mary Ellen Gifford  
Lutheran School-Ruth Alday

Note: *Roots for Kids* is still available at both the OGS Library and at The Library Center.

## 1890 GREENE COUNTY CENSUS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

“As most anyone researching genealogy has found, the vast majority of the original 1890 Census (including Greene County, Missouri) was destroyed in 1921 by fire, smoke, and resulting water damage. In early 2015, the thought of attempting to recreate the Greene County 1890 census was being discussed. In April, 2015, we had our first meeting to discuss how we might attempt this project and the viability of taking on such a large endeavor. We also determined the final product would be a database that would be published and accessed on the Ozarks Genealogical Society website ([www.ozarksgs.org](http://www.ozarksgs.org)) for online research.

We felt we were up for the challenge and had our kickoff meeting in May 2015. We began by determining what resources could be used and how the data could be compiled from these different formats into one database. Once we got started, we transcribed over 20,000 names from eight different, local 1890 documents. Some of the names were duplicates because a person may have been listed in multiple documents such as the Greene County Directory and the tax list. Our research indicated the original 1890 United States Census of Greene County recorded 48,616 residents, which means that in our first pass, we had identified less than half of those recorded residents.

Our next (and most tedious) step in the compilation project was to compare the 1880 and 1900 census records and match them to our database of 1890 residents that were identified in the local resources. In this comparison, we first attempted to clean up the duplicate records, and then we used the 1880 and 1900 census entries to identify any additional family members that might have been in the household in 1890 to round out our reconstructed census records.

When we formed our committee, we forecasted it might take five years to complete the project, which we anticipated would be December, 2020. As of this writing in February, 2019, we are very close to the end of the project and are planning on completing the comparisons and having it all published to our website by mid-2019.

At this point, we have published 13,709 names, consisting of the A thru M section of the alphabet. We will next publish the N thru Z section and expect that section to include at least another 8,600 names. When the project is complete we anticipate there to be approximately 22,000 names identified as residents of Greene County in 1890.

While our final number of identified residents will be less than the originally reported population of approximately 48,000 residents, we recognized one of the challenges in this process. During this late 1800's timeframe, the birth and growth of the westward expansion of the railroad is obvious in Greene County. In the initial step of transcribing the city and county directories, it was apparent that a lot of citizens worked for the railroad, and they probably had families that lived that nomad lifestyle with them. A lot of those reported individuals could not be found in the 1880 nor 1900 Greene County census records, and therefore we were not able to round out a full household for that reported individual. Also, a lot of names in the first compiled database were duplicates (because of being reported in the city/county directory as well as having paid taxes), so, as we combined those records into one, we would have lowered our first count, and as we identified spouses and children our counts increased again.

This project has not been a perfect science and we know that human error relieves us from the expectation of perfection, but, we hope that our efforts will provide some assistance to those that are attempting to research their families in Greene County and have not been able to readily find any 1890 information.

We have had many volunteers come and go during the last four years, and all efforts by everyone involved have been greatly appreciated.”

**Charisse Cameron**  
Chair, 1890 Census Reconstruction Project

The committee members met once a week when possible. During 2019 they met on the third Thursday of each month.

OGS Board approved to allow free online access to this data for both OGS members and non-members.

To find the 1890 census, go to the OGS website, scroll down and click on 1890 Census and follow the instructions.

## Mission Statement Number 4

To maintain and elevate genealogical standards

# ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The original thirteen founding members knew it was important to be organized. Officers were elected at the first meeting and the organization was named the **Ozarks Genealogical Society (OGS)**. Membership was determined and dues established.

In a few months, Bylaws were written and approved by the membership. Current Bylaws are posted on the OGS website under *members only* and are on the computers at the OGS Library.

A Policy and Procedures Manual was developed to provide guidelines for the committees and business of OGS. They are on the OGS website under *members only* and are on the computers at the OGS Library. As the duties and responsibilities of the committees change, these are updated and adjusted.

OGS is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization and is supported solely through membership dues, fundraising and donations. In 1971 OGS decided to contact a lawyer to consider not-for-profit status. On December 20, 1979, the incorporation of the Ozarks Genealogical Society became official.

## **Financial Reports**

1983–2013 can be found in the locked file cabinets in the OGS Office. These reports have been bound into books with green covers and are named: *Ozarks Genealogical Society Records*. The reports for 2015–present are on the OGS website under Financial Records.

## **Minutes of Business Meetings, Board Meeting and Council Meetings**

Business meetings were held once a month for many years. The policy was changed in 2015 to have only one business meeting every year. Minutes can be found:

1969 – 1983 on the computers at the OGS library

1979 – 2012 listed on OGS office computer

1983 – 2013 in locked file cabinet in green bound books: *Ozarks Genealogical Society Records*

2014 – Present on the OGS website and on the computers at the OGS Library.

## **Membership**

Dues were established for: individual members, spouse membership, and out of town membership. Charter Members were those who joined from September 1969 – September 1970. Life Membership was established in 1979. Today there are three levels of membership: individual, family and Life membership.

Scanned membership records are stored on the computer in the OGS Office:

- Membership cards dated from about 1970 – 2000
- Membership applications from 1979 – present

Membership Lists can be found in the 3-ring binder: **MEMBERS ONLY**. It contains a list of the 13 Founding Members, Charter Members, Life Members as well as previous membership lists starting with 1971-1972 list of 63 names through 2002.

The current membership list includes various libraries, societies, and other organizations plus individual members.

### Highlights of OGS Membership

1975	106
1980	246
1982	364 plus 3 Life Members
1989	443 plus 31 Life Members
1992	580
1998	568
2002	543
2016	363
2017	409
2019	357

Earl Stephenson reported as of March 1995 the number of people who belong or have belonged to OGS exceeded 1,300. Great statistic.

### **Joined OGS between 1971 and 1979 and are still members**

Barbara	Grantham	2/21/1971	Bea	Brown	1/14/1976
Dorothy	Owens	3/1/1971	Dorothy	Quaife	10/27/1976
*Ramona	McQueary	10/31/1971	Darlene	Keith	3/9/1977
Bettie	Hickman	4/21/1972	Pat	Haynes	3/23/1977
Melba	Rector	7/19/1972	Sandy	Freeman	11/9/1977
Bob	Barr	5/19/1973	DeAnn	Holt	6/14/1978
Gloria	Scott	1/16/1974	Doris	Cox	8/23/1978
Helen	White	7/2/1975	Imogene	Bennett	9/27/1978
Carolin	Hixon	11/12/1975	Fannie	Frank	10/25/1978
Hazel	Voris	11/12/1975	Ross	Cameron	9/21/1979

\*Denotes a charter member

## Charter Members

The 35 members who joined the Society from September 1969 to September 1970 were considered charter members.

1. Marguerite Adams
2. Mary E Adams
3. Wanda Alexander
4. Betty Ammerman
5. Emily Barr
6. Joan Bellmann
7. Gladys Bishop
8. Lea Bousman
9. Suzanne Cupp
10. Frances Curry
11. Lucille Dreier
12. Kay Engle
13. Joy Fishel
14. Judy Fitzer
15. Naomi Forrester
16. Flossie Frazier
17. LaRue Johnson
18. Irene Kanute
19. Ramona McQueary
20. Laura Milner
21. Dorothea Owen
22. Kate Owen
23. Irene Pettus
24. Garner Phillips
25. Angeline Rowland
26. Jane Scott
27. Helen Vess
28. Pat Vess
29. Stella Visio
30. Beverly Wade
31. Joy Wells
32. Inez West
33. Lila Willoughby
34. Lena Wills
35. Betty Woods



Charter Members present in 1999, left to right: Irene Pettus, Dorothea Owen, Frances Curry, Emily Barr, Betty Ammerman, Mary Adams, Joann Bellman, Joy Fisher, and Betty Woods.

## **Life Members**

Life membership was official in 1979. Even though the member paid the required amount, their join date was separate from the date they became a Life member.

Ackley, Kenneth	Levell, Carolyn
Akers, Betty	Looney, Evelyn
Armstrong, Patricia	Massey, Treva
Baker, Audrey	Mathis, Audrae
Barker, Paul	Maulin, Margaret
Barnett, Hayward	McCoy, Gerald
Barr, Emily	McGrath, Kerry
Barr, Bob	McQueary, Ramona
Burk, Jobelle	McQueary, Frederick "Fred"
Bussey, Virginia	McKee, Mildred
Cameron, Ross	Murray, Mary Ann
Catlett, Della	Olson, Stephen A.
Chesebro, Linda	Owens, Dorothy Mae
Cochran, John	Parrish, Janet (Funk)
Compton, Clara Eleanor	Pepper, Mary Virginia
Compton, Ralph	Phillips, Mabel
Corbin, Doug	Quinn, Frances
Daniel, Frances	Rector, Melba
Dernehl, Willene	Redfearn, Edith Irene
Dernehl, Carl Ulrich	Rising, Marsha Hoffman
Dodd, Dorothy	Roush, Toni
Edwards, Nancy Jean	Roush William "Bill"
Fisk, J. Howard	Ruff, Jo
Frank, Fannie	Sparks, Susan
Freeman, Sandy	Spellman, Daniel "Dan"
Fry, Joseph "Joe"	Swann, Mary Moore
Gohr, Glenn	Swann, Mary Eva
Grantham, Barbara	Trout, Julie
Hale, Mary Jane	Varner, Alice
Halsey, Richard	Voris, Hazel
Harper, George	Waits, Bert
Hendricks, Gene	Wallace, Ressie
Hickman, Bettie	Weidman, Winona
Hill, Iva	Wood, William "Bill"
Hobbs, Patti	Wood, Vera
Hook, Charlene	Woods, Sandy
Inmon, James	Worley, Ellwyn
Jensen, Barbara	Young, Ethel
Johnson, Laurel	Zurawicz, Megan
Jones, Linda	

## **Officers**

Officers were elected at the first meeting to serve for two years although some only served for one year. A List of Presidents 1969 – 2020 is included

The Timeline also includes the name of each President.

Pictures of the Presidents have been framed and placed on the walls of the OGS Library. A Plaque with the names of the Presidents is also on the walls of the OGS Library. Pictures of the presidents and other officers can be found in the Scrapbooks.

### **OGS PRESIDENTS**

1969-1971	Dorothea Owen	1995-1997	Lucy Ortner
1971-1973	Frances Curry	1997-1999	Patsy McHaffie
1973-1974	Lena Wills	1999-2001	Lynn Shelley
1974-1976	Mary Woody	2001-2003	Bonnie Hallett
1976-1978	Emily Barr	2003-2005	Melba Rector
1978-1979	Ralph Shaw	2005-2006	John Purtell
1979-1980	Mildred Dodd	2006-2008	Doris Wilson
1980-1981	Beatrice Brown	2009-2011	Margaret Maulin
1981-1983	Melba Rector	2011	Steve Buffat
1983-1985	Linda Jones	2012	Linda Chesebro
1985-1987	Hazel Voris	2013	Steve Buffat
1987-1989	Mary Ellen Gifford	2014-2015	Norma "Gigi" Hunter
1989-1991	Adell Smith	2016-2017	Rita Wallace
1991-1993	Jody Clifton	2018	J. D. McMillan
1993-1995	Barbara Jensen	2019-2020	Connie Daughtrey

## **Committees**

**October 1970 Minutes** A Book Committee has been appointed to check books available in the library to see which books the club should buy. Each member should give a list of books they want us to purchase. The Committee is Frances Curry, Chairman: Lena Wills, Lila Willoughby, Pat Vess, Joy Wells and Irene Pettus.

**January 1971 Minutes** Committee formed to consider a charter and incorporation of the club: Rebecca Wood, Beverly Wade and Betty Woods.

**July 1971 Minutes** Committee was appointed to create the Surname Index: Ruth Block, Inez West, and Ramona McQueary. Index completed in July 1972 - copies sold for 65 cents each

**October 1971 Minutes** Membership Committee

**July 1973 Minutes** Nominating Committee

**September 1974 Minutes** Book Acquisition Committee

**August 1978 Minutes** *Before 1850 Committee*

**October 1978 Minutes** following list of Committees and members as listed in the minutes:

Ancestor Index: Linda Everett, chair

Bylaws Committee: James Bane, Bill Wood, Emily Barr, James Inmon, Frances Curry, Lena Wills

Library Committee: Melba Rector, Linda Jones, Martha Evans, Dora Miller, Doris Mitchell, Frances Curry, Carmen Pyle, Mrs. Forrester

Communications: Mildred Dodd

Programs Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> VP Betty Ammerman, Vera Wood, Emily Barr

Typing Committee: Gloria Jean Scott, Caroline Hixon, Ruth Browning, Frances Curry

Book Committee: Melba Rector, Betty Ammerman, Mary Woody, Connie Rogers, Gloria Scott

Before 1850 Committee: Bonnie Shaw, Emily Barr, Mary Cunningham, James Bane, Wilma Brite, Frances Curry, George Findley, Lena Wills, Wilma Martin, Jean Wallace, Mildred Dodd.

Hospitality and Membership Committee: Barbara Grantham, Darlene Keith, Hazel Voris, Dorothy Mahan, Arthur Moser

As the organization grew, Standing Rules and guidelines were created for the use of books and research materials. Later the Policy and Procedures Manual was created which lists the duties and responsibilities of each active committee. The current Manual can be found on the OGS website under *members only*.

According to the Bylaws, the Executive Council will be composed of the elected officers and all committee chairs. The current list of these members is on the OGS website.

At the quarterly Executive Council, each chair is to provide a written report. At the Annual Business Meeting, each chair provides an annual report which is then printed in the January newsletter. These reports are stored on the computer in the OGS Office.

### **Fund Raising**

Even though there were membership dues and books were sold, Fundraising was necessary. OGS members worked together saving Best Choice receipts, selling aluminum cans, collecting CCA Bonus points, recycling old newspapers, and of course selling tote bags, sweatshirts, membership pins plus many other items.

### **Memorial Service**

The first Memorial Service for deceased members and family members was held in 1981. The following guidelines were approved: "Approved purchase of book in honor of an immediate family member or OGS member who has died during the year. This would do away with flower fund. April 8 Executive Board recommended that: one book from the current purchase be presented in memory of all immediate family members that have died during the fiscal year. (Immediate family being: spouse, children and parent.) The book will contain a memorial page listing each person and their relationship to member. The book is to be presented in September of each year. The Executive Board recommended that: upon the death of a member, a book is to be purchased in memory of such member and presented to the OGS Library in memory of such member. The "loose change fund" is to be discontinued."

Memorial Services were held in September for several years. Now they are planned for November of each year. The Hospitality Committee and the Librarian make plans for the program and purchase of books.

A Memorial Page is printed each year and some of these pages can be found in the scrapbooks. Some are in a 3-ring binder in the OGS Office. The newsletter prints the Memorial Page after the service.

### **Scrapbooks**

Scrapbooks are another way to record the History of OGS. Many volunteers have served as Historian and created the scrapbooks.

There are 12 scrapbooks stored in the OGS Office at the Library which reflect the story in pictures and memorabilia. Two scrapbooks have been scanned and are on the computers in the OGS library.

- One scrapbook is dedicated to the Workshops 1981 – 1986
- One scrapbook is dedicated to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1969 – 2009 & 2010
- Scrapbook A has Historical Notes dated 1969 – 1984
- Scrapbook B – I are dated on the covers (F is missing)
- One is dated 2010 – 2011 and contains obituaries
- Another one is dated 2013, 2014, 2015 containing newspapers and meetings

## **Annual Dinners, Picnics, Social Gatherings**

Getting together for dinners, picnics and special gatherings is a long tradition for the OGS members.

The first dinner mentioned was in December 1970 at the Heritage Cafeteria which was part meeting and part Christmas Party.

During the following years an annual Spring Dinner was planned which included a special speaker.

Dinners were held at Calvert's Cafeteria, Marketplace Cafeteria, Fletcher's Plantation Restaurant, Springfield Community Hospital Dining Room, American Legion Post #676 West Hwy 60, Golden Corral Restaurant, Mid America Cancer Center, St. John's Cancer Center, Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, and the Mansion at Elfindale.

**March 29, 1980** The Public Library (Midtown Library) announced a Coffee to be held on Saturday from 9:30 - 11:00 for the entire membership to express appreciation for support given to **OZAR'KIN** during the past year as well as other projects. This was to be held in the conference room of the Public Library (Midtown Library).

**August 20, 1985:** "Picnic outside at Schweitzer United Methodist Church sponsored by Night Workshop Study Group." It was decided to schedule an annual picnic each year in August. These were held at various parks: Fassnight Park, Phelps Grove Park, and Cooper Estates Clubhouse 1999-2010. The picnics were discontinued as fewer and fewer members were able to attend.

Detailed Information about these dinners and picnics can be found in the newsletters and minutes. Copies of the promotional pieces as well as pictures taken during these events can be found in the scrapbooks.

## **2019 and Beyond**

The History of OGS continues. Individuals still want to search for and discover their ancestors. And today there are more research tools and more possibilities than ever before.

- The books are still needed and many new books and manuals being printed.
- City, County and State records are being digitized. Archives are expanding
- Databases are growing and new material is being added every day.
- DNA research is exploding and the new techniques continue to challenge everyone.
- OGS will meet the challenges and will continue to move forward doing what we do best.

**With such a Proud Past, how can OGS have anything but a Promising Future?**

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