

SHILOH'S SOUNDING BOARD

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE READERS OF THE SHILOH SAGA

April 2019, Volume 1, Number 1



News from Patricia's Place

Yes, my friends, today I am seventy. No, I can't believe it either. On Saturday, I was having lunch with some classmates from the Bono Class of '67, and we were discussing that very issue. We talked about how when we were in school, those who were fifty-five seemed so very old to us. We never saw ourselves as those not so young, slightly decaying people who had lived six score years and ten. Frankly, even today when I look in the mirror, I sometimes wonder how that image of my grandmother came to be staring back at me. Oh, to be thirty-five again!

But you know, I don't think I would turn back the clock now, even if I could. I look back at the last half of my life at all the blessings I've received, and the joy and wonder that have been placed in my path. I wouldn't want to sacrifice any of it for an opportunity at a do-over. No, I haven't gotten everything from life I wanted...in most ways, I've gotten so much more than I ever dreamed I'd have. If I sat down to count my blessings, I'd still be sitting in this chair this time next year to list the best of them. I too have had a few heartaches, but such a pittance when compared with the blessings God has laid at my feet. My life has been a good one.

So where do I go from here? At a recent conference in Collierville, Tennessee, the Mid-South Christian Writer's Group used the theme of "My Pen, His Plan." I am going to steal their motto for my future goal. I love writing. I have had a wonderful time sharing my Shiloh stories with Arkansans (and a few others outside our borders. I am going to finish the five volumes of this story and then wait to see what new story about my home state the Lord wants me to tell next. All of you who have read my books have blessed me more than I can tell you. I appreciate your encouragement and support.

BREAKING NEWS...ABOUT THE SHILOH STORIES!

Breaking News about the Shiloh Saga....

The fourth volume of the Shiloh Story has a launch date.

Shadows Over Shiloh is coming on July 6, 2019!

More News about the Shiloh Stories....

On April 30, 2019, three classmates and I will travel to Northwest Arkansas to talk about *Beyond Shiloh* and the soon to be released *Shadows Over Shiloh*.

Jamae Fulmer will be hosting our reunion in her home at Winslow, Arkansas.





The Rice-Upshaw Cabin near Pocahontas, Arkansas.

ARKANSAS RAMBLINGS...

A VISIT TO PIONEER HOMESTEAD SITE AT DALTON.

This beautifully restored single pen cabin is very much the type of home that early pioneers to Northeast Arkansas erected when they came to our state more than twenty years before statehood was declared. This building is only a part of the homestead site being preserved by Black River Technical College's project REACH. The Rice-Upshaw House, along with the Looney Tavern nearby, are being preserved through gifts and government grants so their place in Arkansas's earliest history will not be lost to future generations.

This site is wonderful to see. The split rail fences and the carefully restored cabin are very authentic. In a conversation with Holly Looney, the coordinator of the site, I learned the original house built here was erected about 1830. The Looney Tavern nearby predates this building by about two decades. I visited this historic place in early summer, and the grounds were beautiful with mature trees and native flowers in bloom.

I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful history in our neck of the woods this year in your Arkansas Ramblings. We have much to love and be proud of in our great state. I hope you will take advantage of this place in Randolph County.

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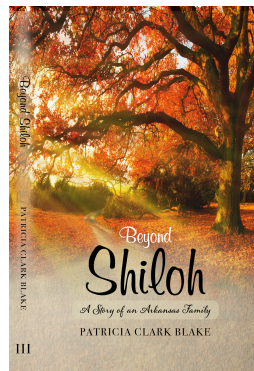
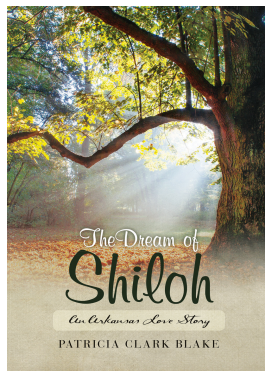
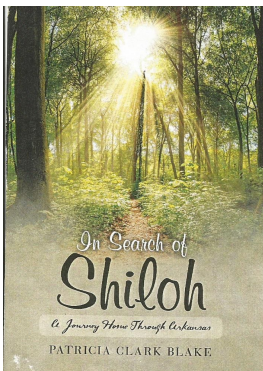
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Black River Technical College and the volunteers of this Northeast Arkansas Historical Site have done an exceptional job preserving the site and continue to research the early culture of the area around Dalton and the Eleven-Point River.

Please check out their website at <http://reach.blackrivertech.edu> and put this place on your summer calendar. There is a calendar of events, times of admission, directions to the site and so much history here that I wanted to share the link, instead of trying to summarize it for you. I think you will enjoy it as much as I did. I hope to attend their open-house day on May 11, 2019. I'd love to meet any of you who have read my Shiloh books at that time.



<https://www.patriciacblake.com/>

I hope you will all check out my new website, patriciacblake.com. Please, join my email list. If you will do this, you can get a sneak peek of the opening chapter of *Shadows Over Shiloh*, Volume IV of my Shiloh Saga.