



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

APRIL 2016

AHC Receives \$24,387 Grant from Arkansas Humanities Council

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 29—May 21

The Great War: Arkansas in World War I Exhibit
Cabot High School Library and Museum

April 30

AHC/ Arkansas Genealogical Society Seminar
1940 WPA Gym
Historic Washington State Park

June 4

Black History Commission of Arkansas/AHC African American Arts in Arkansas
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

June 11

Black History Commission of Arkansas Curtis H. Sykes Grant Workshop
AHC Conference Room

We are happy to announce that the Arkansas History Commission has received a generous grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities of \$24,387 to support much of our public programming in 2016. The grant will provide funding in part for five events occurring between June and October.

On June 4 at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the Black History Commission of Arkansas (BHCA) and the Arkansas History Commission will hold a joint event focusing on African American art in Arkansas. The event will feature speakers Delita Martin, a nationally recognized artist, Garbo Hearne, director of Hearne Fine Art, and Garland Taylor Martin. Martin, recent recipient of a Curtis H. Sykes grant from the BHCA, will talk about his work on Henry Jackson Lewis, a 19th century African American political cartoonist with Arkansas ties. For more information about the symposium or to register, contact us at history.commission@arkansas.gov or call

us at 501-682-6900.

The AHC holds a significant collection of folk music from the Ozark Folk Center State Park. The collection contains over 4,000 original recordings alone, as well as commercially produced recordings, sheet music, books, photographs, and more. At the end of July, the AHC will host a music-themed event focusing on three of Arkansas's folk heroes. Speakers will talk about the influence and legacy of Almeda Riddle, Jimmy Driftwood and Patsy Montana, and a local band will cover songs from each artist.

Willkommen zu Arkansas! Zum Wohl! On September 10, the AHC will present the third in its popular series of "Arkansas Foodways" events. This year we will be focusing on German foodways as a part of Arkansas's cultural landscape. Like previous events, this seminar will be held at the Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute. Speakers will discuss the history of German settlement in Arkansas, and the influence of German communities and foodstuffs on Arkansas culture. Lunch will feature a selection of German foods, and a cooking demonstration and beer tasting will cap off the event.

Sports fans will be interested in our August 27th event, "Arkansas's Home Run: The History of Major League Training in Hot Springs." The event will examine a little known part of Arkansas's sports history, a time when Hot Springs was one of the premiere places for professional baseball teams to hold their spring training camps. Don Duren, author of the book, *Boiling Out at the Springs: A History of Major League Baseball Spring Training at Hot Springs, Arkansas*, will discuss his research. There will also be a screening of the recent documentary film, *The Boys of Summer*, and a discussion with the film's producer, Larry Foley.

Our year of programming will culminate in an event celebrating American and Arkansas Archives Month. On October 29, the AHC will partner with Preserve Arkansas and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program on "Using Archival Records to Save Historic Structures" at the North Little Rock Heritage Center. This seminar will explore the intricacies of historic structure research and how to access different types of archival records to explore a structure's history based on case studies of local preservation efforts.

We are grateful to the Arkansas Humanities Council for its support of our public programming. We have such a variety of interesting topics, we are sure that there will be something for everyone. Be sure to watch for future issues of the AHC newsletter for more information about upcoming events!

The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission present

African American Arts in Arkansas

Saturday June 4th, 2016
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
501 W 9th St., Little Rock

Featuring nationally recognized artist, Delita Martin and Garbo Hearne, Director of Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing and Hearne Fine Art

Registration is required by May 30th.
To register call 682-6900 or email history.commission@arkansas.gov
Lunch will be provided.
Teachers can earn up to 4 professional development hours.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

AHC Applauds AHA Award Winners



Jane Wilkerson's article about Samuel Hamblen, his first hand account of Lincoln's funeral won the Walter L. Brown Award

The Arkansas Historical Association held its annual meeting recently in Little Rock, April 21-23. This was the 75th annual meeting of the AHA, which has close historical ties to establishment of the Arkansas History Commission.

On Friday evening, April 22, the annual awards banquet was held in the grand dining room of the Albert Pike Masonic Temple. Several of the award recipients were individuals closely connected to our agency. We'd like to take a moment to recognize them and congratulate them on their accomplishments!

Jane Wilkerson, AHC Archival Manager won the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Edited Document for her article, "Their Hearts Were in the Coffin": Samuel Hamblen's First-Hand Account of President Lincoln's Funeral." Hamblen was a Guard of Honor at Lincoln's funeral, stationed at Camp Defiance, Cairo, Illinois. Wilkerson's article was published in the 2015 issue of the Garland County Historical Society's journal *The Record*.

AHC Commissioner **Elizabeth Robbins**, who is the Director of the Garland County Historical Society, accepted a Walter L. Brown County and Local Journal Award on behalf of the society for honorable mention in the Best County Publication category.

Dr. Ruth Hawkins, former AHC Commissioner and chair, along with UALR Professor of History Carl Moneyhon, received the AHA's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement awards.

Lloyd Clark, President of the Friends of the Arkansas History Commission, won the Tom Dillard Advocacy Award. Congratulations to all the winners! We are proud of you!

Black History Commission News

The Challengers

Untold Stories of African Americans Who Changed the System in One Small Southern Municipality



The NAACP Unit 6013 Presents profiles of 63 black candidates who filed for political office in Hot Springs, Arkansas, from 1954-2010

Elmer Beard

This month's BHCA news spotlights a recent recipient of a Curtis H. Sykes grant. Elmer Beard wanted to raise awareness about the history of African American officeholders in Hot Springs. When looking at the history of African Americans in Hot Springs, Beard noted that although there were reports of some African American officeholders in the city, there was little information available to historians about who they were. Working under the auspices of the NAACP Unit 6013, Beard decided that he would take the opportunity to document the careers of many of the African Americans who had held or ran for political office in Hot Springs so that the information would be available to future historians.

Mr. Beard applied for and received Sykes grants to fund his research and later for the publication of his findings. He spent a lot of time in the Garland County Courthouse, conducting interviews, and gathering information from other sources. Mr. Beard's research allowed for an analysis of the community. Politicians, community leaders, educators, clergy, among others, are represented in his study.

Mr. Beard has published the results of his research in the book, *The Challengers: Untold Stories of African Americans Who Changed the System in One Small Southern Municipality*. The book features biographies of African Americans in Hot Springs who contributed to change over the last 55 years. The BHCA is proud to be associated with Mr. Beard's work. The book is available on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/The-Challengers-Americans-Southern-Municipality/dp/069260698X>.

If your organization has a research or historic preservation project that supports Arkansas's African American history, we encourage you to consider applying for a Curtis H. Sykes grant. Potential applicants are *strongly encouraged* to attend one of the quarterly grant workshops sponsored by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission. The next workshop will be June 11. To register for the workshop, please contact Tatyana Oyinloye, African American History Program Coordinator at 501-682-6892 or email tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Arkansas History Commission

Ms. Mary Dillard	Malvern
Mr. Michael Lindsey	Fayetteville
Mr. Robert McCarley	Little Rock
Ms. Elizabeth Robbins	Hot Springs
Mr. Rodney Soubers	Mountain Home
Dr. Robert Sherer	Little Rock
Mr. Michael Whitmore	Rogers

Black History

Commission of Arkansas

Ms. Carla Coleman	Little Rock
Ms. Joyce Gibson	Prescott
Dr. John W. Graves	Arkadelphia
Ms. Elise Hampton	Conway
Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch	Jonesboro
Mr. Myron Jackson	Little Rock
Rev. Frank Stewart	Conway

Arkansas Records Catalog

ark-cat.com



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HOURS: 8 AM-4:30 PM, MON-SAT
CLOSED STATE HOLIDAYS

From the Director



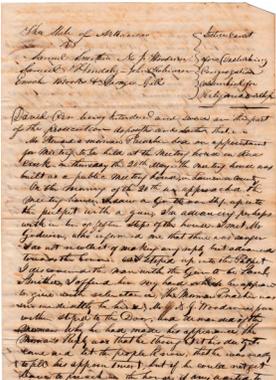
On March 31, 2016, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed Executive Order 16-05, establishing a World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee. I'm honored to be appointed to serve on this committee, which will coordinate the state's events, memorials and projects celebrating "the Great War" in 2017 and 2018.

The AHC has a long tradition of memorializing our state's soldiers and commemorating conflicts involving our citizens. The Commission's enabling legislation from 1909 specifically mentions the importance of collecting and preserving information on military conflicts in which Arkansans participated, and on the soldiers engaged in those conflicts. Just months after Armistice on November 11, 1918, the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 175, amending the duties of the Commission to include preserving the history of Arkansas's part in World War I. Act 175 (1919) charged the agency with a number of activities that included compiling a range of resources on the war, including copies of federal records and original, official state records, and procuring "memorials and relics" of the war for placement in a "Great War Museum."

Dallas Herndon, then History Commission Director, immediately set about collecting materials to document the service of Arkansans in the war, as well as activities on the homefront. Of notable interest are the several hundred artifacts the Commission received from L. C. Guley, an Arkansan working for the postal service in Europe during the war. From the decimated European countryside, Guley retrieved and sent back to Arkansas examples of artillery, weaponry, gas masks, shrapnel-torn body armor and helmets, as well as "souvenirs" made by the soldiers, like the elaborately stamped pieces of metal work referred to as "trench art" and ashtrays made from the belt buckles of German soldiers. All of these are reminders of the tremendous cost in human life of this first modern, global war.

The AHC also holds many artifacts and documents attesting to the heroism of Arkansas soldiers, like Herman Davis of Manila, in Mississippi County. Davis was Arkansas's most decorated serviceman of World War I, receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, the *Croix de Guerre* with Palm and the *Croix de Guerre* with Gilt Star, and the *Medaille Militaire*. Davis's medals, as well as a large photographic portrait of the sharpshooter, are just a few of the memorials to Arkansas's World War I heroes housed at the AHC. We invite you to reserve our [travelling exhibit](#) on the war, browse our online [digital exhibit](#), which we will be growing over the course of the centennial commemoration, or come into any of our three research rooms and learn more about *the war to end all wars!* — Dr. Lisa K. Speer

News from NEARA



Account of Orr about the attack involving a Mormon preacher from NEARA's collection

This year marks the third for The NEARA Award, and one we have anticipated from the beginning. While our earlier awards drew submissions from a known group of local historians, the entries this year drew from a new crop of researchers – community members and students. This helps to demonstrate both the appeal of regional historical research and, more importantly, the entry of new voices to help write the narrative of Lawrence County's past.

Edward Harthorn, this year's recipient, will receive his Bachelor's degree in History from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge this spring, and will begin a MA in History at Arkansas State University in the fall. Over the past several years, NEARA has forged a strong relationship with the history faculty the region, which has led to many students conducting research in our

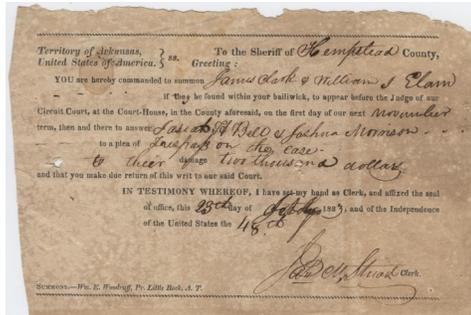
collections.

Edward's winning submission, "Pushing him back over the pulpit": David Orr and Religious Conflict in Early Arkansas, examines the life and religious contributions of Kentucky-born Baptist minister David Orr, who long ministered in Arkansas. Edward's paper also examines the repercussions when Orr defends the right of a Mormon speaker to address a group at a public meetinghouse in 1841 Lawrence County, resulting in an altercation and criminal charges against a number of local citizens. A product of the Second Great Awakening, Orr sought to both evangelize widely and to explore a broad range of religious thought.

Orr's ambitions and need to make a living ensured he would remain embroiled in controversy – and that we would have an ample supply of records to help document his presence in Arkansas. It isn't too early to start planning for your own chance at recognition, a certificate, and \$1000 for yourself. The deadline for next year's entries is February 1.

News from SARA

SARA receives many wonderful archival treasures throughout the year, and sometimes these treasures can really take one by surprise. Recently, right at closing time, a patron knocked on the door asking if we had time to look at some old documents. Absolutely! These "old documents" turned out to be quite the collection.



Summons to arrest James Clark and William J. Elam on the charge of trespass on the case

Russell "Rusty" Book and his mother Martha Smith Book of Texarkana, Texas, had preserved for a number of years various loose court records from Hempstead County, Arkansas, many dating to the beginnings of the Arkansas Territory in 1819. Mrs. Book's mother-in-law, Carrie Ellis Book of Ozan, had rescued them during the 1930s when many of the older records were being discarded. Fortunately the Book family realized their historical value and took care not only to preserve them, but also decided they should be brought to SARA where they could be utilized by researchers. These records complement other collections at SARA such as the Simmons Collection and the Monroe Collection, which also contain numerous loose court records from the early days of Hempstead County, which comprised a large portion of southwest Arkansas.

It's wonderful to see these records returning "home" to Washington, where the Hempstead County Courthouse was located at the time many of these records were created. We appreciate each and every donation brought to SARA that helps to fill these gaps in the historical record.



While some of the hallmarks of the spring season are pollen coating our cars and the constant allergic reactions that brings, we cannot overlook another time-honored tradition of spring: the opening day of baseball season. We are lucky to have a number of baseball related collections at the AHC. One such collection is the John H. 'Rube Robinson' Roberson Family collection.

Roberson was born in the small town of Floyd in White County in 1889. Early in his baseball career, he showed great aptitude at pitching. His pitching abilities soon caught the attention of professional baseball scouts and soon Roberson was playing professionally for the St.

Louis Cardinals. While in the professional ranks, fans and baseball announcers started referring to him as 'Rube Robinson' and the name stuck.

Roberson's career took a strange twist, though. In 1916, the pitcher had a personality conflict with the Cardinals' general manager, Miller Huggins, and asked for his contract to be sold to the Arkansas Travelers' baseball club. Huggins agreed and Roberson returned to Arkansas. While with the Travelers, he became the winningest pitcher in the sports organization's history. Roberson retired in 1929. In 1962, he was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. He died in 1965.

The collection includes news clippings from his career as well as such interesting items as his contract to play for the St. Louis Cardinals (which paid him a whopping \$350 a month — a kingly salary for the time) and materials from his induction into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. The collection can be found in our research room and we hope that those interested in Arkansas's sports history will find the collection as fascinating as we do.

April Donations and Accessions

AHC

- Yell County Civil and Criminal Court records, 0.50 cu ft
- Cleburne County Digitized Real Estate Tax Ledgers
- Lower White River State Park, maps
- John S. Polk papers accretion, 4 cu ft
- Auditor's Journal of Letters, 0.75 cu ft
- Interdepartmental Relations Committee records, 6 cu ft

SARA

- Hempstead County Court Records, 0.25 cu ft
- Dingler Family Photograph
- Black Tie White Tie DVD documentary that chronicles Gibson family from Nevada County, Arkansas and Union Parish, Louisiana

We always receive more material than we are able to list in our newsletter. For a full listing, see our blog

<http://arkansasstatearchives.blogspot.com/2016/04/acquisitions-and-accessions-for-april-49.html>

With Spring comes the great American pastime, baseball. It should not surprise our readers to learn that the AHC has a number of great baseball photos in our collection. Here are a few of those photographs. We hope everyone has a great spring!



Plantation Baseball Club, unknown location, 1911



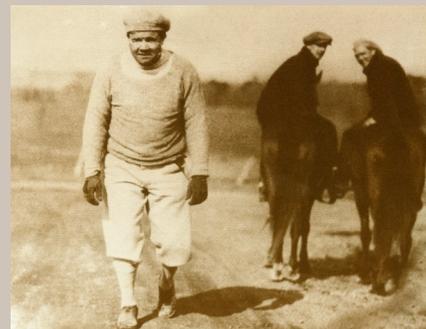
Arkansas State Normal School baseball team, 1909



Playing near Mountain Home, 1938



Unknown baseball player sliding into home plate, mid-1930s.



Babe Ruth at spring training camp at Hot Springs, 1920s.