



# THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

JANUARY 2016

## Upcoming Symposium on Little Rock School Desegregation

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### January 20—February 5

*The Great War: Arkansas in World War I Exhibit*  
Jefferson County Historic Museum  
Pine Bluff

#### February 16 — February 26

*The Great War: Arkansas in World War I Exhibit*  
Fairfield Bay Community Education Center  
130 Village Lane, Suite 5E  
Fairfield Bay

#### February 15

AHC Closed  
Presidents Day

#### February 1 —February 25

*African American Legislators Exhibit*  
Learning Resource Center  
College of the Ouachitas  
Malvern

#### February 6

*Little Rock School Desegregation: Then to Now*  
Black History Commission of Arkansas Symposium  
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Arkansas's education system has been scarred by the legacy of segregation and the struggle to end it and provide equal opportunity for all students. Often, history books treat the desegregation struggle as settled and ended in the 1950s and 1960s. Many historians, however, argue that the legacy of segregation continues to be felt in the current educational climate. On February 6, the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission will present a program titled, *Little Rock School Desegregation: Then to Now* at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock.

We are honored to have a slate of interesting speakers who have had experience in dealing with segregation and its legacy speaking at the symposium. State Representative John W. Walker is a long time civil rights attorney in the state of Arkansas. Walker is also a member of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. He has been involved in ongoing litigation over persistent problems regarding equal education funding in the state's public school system. Rep. Walker will discuss

some of the legal issues regarding desegregation and funding to Arkansas schools.

Dr. John A. Kirk is the George W. Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History and Director of the Institute on Race and Ethnicity at UALR. His research interests have included the history of the Civil Rights Movement focusing most of his study on the 1957 Central High Crisis and the history of civil rights in Arkansas. He has written eight books including 2004's *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Profiles in Power*. His most recent book, *Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas: New Perspectives*, is an edited collection of essays examining different aspects of the history of race and culture in Arkansas.

Dr. Felicia Bell Hobbs has been involved in educating Arkansas children for forty years. For the past twenty-one years, she has served as principal at Gibbs Magnet School of International Studies and Foreign Languages in Little Rock. Dr. Hobbs graduated from Watson Chapel High School in Pine Bluff where she was one of the first African American students to integrate the school.

Dr. Jim Ross is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Before joining the staff at UALR, he taught in the Little Rock School District. At UALR, Dr. Ross works closely with the Secondary Education Program that trains future teachers. He has been a tireless advocate for the most disadvantaged students for many years. He will discuss current issues and struggles regarding desegregation in our schools.

The deadline to register for the event is rapidly approaching and seating is limited. Register by calling 501-682-6900 or emailing [history.commission@arkansas.gov](mailto:history.commission@arkansas.gov) by February 2. Lunch will be provided and teachers can earn up to four professional development hours for the event. We look forward to seeing you at this interesting program!

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

Little Rock School Desegregation February 6th  
*From Then to Now* 2016

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Lunch will be provided



Registration is required by February 1st

Call 501-682-6900 or email [history.commission@arkansas.gov](mailto:history.commission@arkansas.gov)

Teachers may earn up to four professional development hours for attendance

As soon as I can arrange it I expect to leave Chicago, perhaps about the last of next week. Your daughter has a letter on the way setting forth the wishes of the Commission. My actions shall be governed according to those instructions, as nearly as possible.

Very truly yours,  
Dallas Herndon

Letter from Dallas Herndon to J.H. Reynolds accepting the position of the first Director of the Arkansas History Commission in 1911, found among the J.H. Reynolds letters recently donated to the AHC

Last year, the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives celebrated its 110th birthday. Founded in 1905, the History Commission was the brainchild of J.H. Reynolds, a history professor who taught at both the University of Arkansas and Hendrix College during his career in education. Some of the collective history of the agency's earliest years, including Reynolds involvement, is held in the archives' vault. Recently, however, a collection of previously unknown correspondence connected to J.H. Reynolds and the agency's earliest years was discovered.

On Jan. 6, Doyle Walker donated two folders of material directly related to the founding of the History Commission. Walker had recently purchased a house in Conway. After buying the home and exploring its attic, he discovered numerous boxes, pieces of furniture and even two antique gumball machines. Amongst the boxes were loose folders containing what looked like old correspondence. After reading through them, Mr. Walker quickly realized the folders' value. "The material is clearly connected to J.H. Reynolds and the History Commission," he said.

How the material ended up in the attic of the house in Conway isn't known, but the home had originally been owned by Grover and Georgia Hulen, both of whom had worked at Hendrix, like J.H. Reynolds. In fact, Georgia had been a longtime and very beloved dietician on campus. "I'm not sure what the connection is between J.H. Reynolds and Hulen," Mr. Walker shared. "The house was built in 1953, but I think Mrs. Hulen had been with Hendrix long before then. There's even a building on campus named for her."

Regardless of how the material ended up in the Hulen house, the History Commission is thrilled with the donation.

"It's not every day that someone walks in with hundred-year old records documenting the very earliest work of your organization," said Director Lisa K. Speer. "This donation not only contains letters from John Hugh Reynolds, but from some of the early major players in creating and growing the state archives, including first Director Dallas Herndon and long-time commissioner Clara B. Eno." Among the most interesting letters in the donation is Herndon's original letter dated Aug. 26, 1911, accepting the position as director, and a Nov. 11, 1910 letter from Thomas M. Owen, the first archivist of the State of Alabama, advising John Hugh Reynolds on how to set up a properly functioning state archives for Arkansas.

### Black History Commission News



One of the goals of the Arkansas History Commission is to collect and preserve the state's African American history, and to share that history with the people of Arkansas. In February 2015, Tatyana Oyinloye, the AHC's African American History Program Coordinator, was invited to Chicot Primary School and Early Childhood Center in Little Rock to speak to kindergarten classes about African American inventors and their inventions.

Ms. Oyinloye also spoke with some of the teachers at the school about African American family history research and encouraged them to preserve their personal documents, photographs, and other memorabilia, and to donate such material to archival research institutions like the Arkansas

History Commission.

The program at Chicot School was such a success with students and teachers that Ms. Oyinloye has been invited back this year during Black History Month to give another presentation. If you are interested in having Ms. Oyinloye talk to your class about African American history makers or other related topics, you can contact her at [tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov](mailto:tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov) or at 501-682-6892.

## KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

### Arkansas History Commission

- Ms. Mary Dillard Malvern
- Dr. Ruth Hawkins Jonesboro
- Mr. Michael Lindsey Fayetteville
- Mr. Robert McCarley Little Rock
- Ms. Elizabeth Robbins Hot Springs
- Dr. Robert Sherer Little Rock
- Mr. Michael Whitmore Rogers

### Black History Commission of Arkansas

- Ms. Carla Coleman Little Rock
- Rev. Barry Dobson El Dorado
- Ms. Joyce Gibson Prescott
- Dr. John W. Graves Arkadelphia
- Mr. Myron Jackson Little Rock
- Mr. James Lawson Jacksonville
- Rev. Frank Stewart Conway

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# From the Director



The Arkansas History Commission got an early Christmas present last year during the last months of 2015. For years, our staff and commissioners have talked about the need for a support group for the agency. Earlier efforts to establish a “friends” group had yielded little or no results. Everyone knows that volunteer organizations, like friends groups, usually take a significant commitment of time, energy and dedication from their members — members whose only incentive and reward is the good feeling they get from helping an organization or cause that is important to them.

On December 5, 2015, after some weeks of planning, the “Friends of the Arkansas History Commission” held its first organizational meeting at One Capitol Mall to elect officers and board members, adopt bylaws, and consider other organizational details and priorities. Over fifty enthusiastic people from a variety of backgrounds, but united by a common interest in Arkansas history, crowded into the hallway outside the History Commission’s research room on an early Saturday morning to hear how they could help the History Commission and State Archives continue to grow and thrive.

Officers elected were: Lloyd Clark (Powhatan), Chairman; Lynda Suffridge (NLR and Perryville), Vice Chair; Timothy G. Nutt (LR), Secretary; and Tom Dillard (Malvern), Treasurer. Ten members for a board of directors were identified, and officers have been in the process of finalizing those commitments in the intervening weeks.

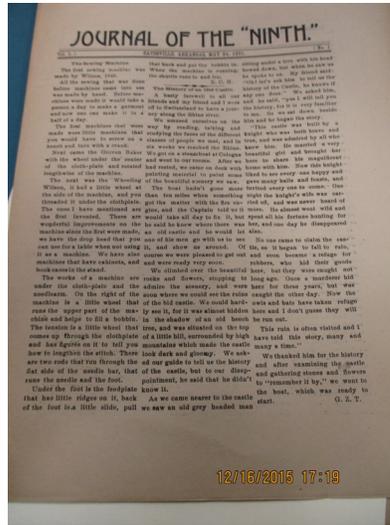
The purpose of the Friends group, consistent with that of many such support organizations, will be assisting the AHC with fulfilling its mission of collecting, preserving and making available for research Arkansas history materials; raising volunteers to augment the AHC’s small staff; fundraising to support the agency’s services and programs; and supporting our staff’s commitment to ongoing professional development.

The AHC staff, Commissioners and I are so happy to finally have a support group, and very grateful to the people who made it happen — in particular Tom Dillard, George Mitchell and Tim Nutt. We are also grateful to those charter members and board members, without whose commitment of time and energy this effort could not succeed.

In weeks to come, the Friends group will be distributing a formal membership application with information on dues. In the meantime, if you are interested in becoming a member, here’s a [flyer](#) with more information on the group, or you can contact [friendsofahc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofahc@gmail.com) and let them know you are interested in joining!

Thank you for supporting Arkansas history and YOUR state archives! — Dr. Lisa K. Speer

## News from NEARA



A bit of humor is always good on a cold winter’s day, and there is plenty of it to be found in the *Journal of the “Ninth.”* This little journal, compiled by the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at Batesville High School, overflows with silly stories, nonsense rhymes, and tidbits of history and news of the day all guaranteed to tickle one’s fancy.

As part of a 2010 donation from the Lawrence County Historical Society, NEARA received multiple copies of Vol. 1, No. 1 of this journal dated May 24, 1901. From cover stories about the history of the sewing machine and the fanciful history of an old castle, to

a mixed-up medley of nursery rhymes woven into a narrative, one thing we know for sure is that these students had vivid imaginations!

Of the seven people named in the masthead of the publication, it is interesting to note that five of them were women, including Editor-in-Chief Gertrude Talley. It is possible, although we are uncertain for now, that Ms. Talley was a teacher. Nancy Britton, of the Independence County Historical Society, was able to confirm the identities of some of those listed by speaking to the oldest Batesville residents she could find. More information on those people is on file with the journals at NEARA. Unfortunately, we have no records indicating whether the publication continued beyond this initial issue.

## News from SARA



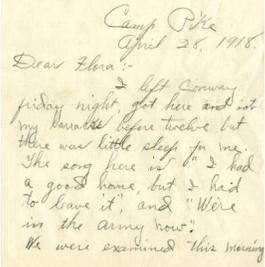
Is it a daguerreotype or an ambrotype? SARA is fortunate to have in its collections a number of both of these types of photographs which date back to the earliest days of photography. Contained in small, hinged cases that fasten with one or two clasps, they are a window into another era. But what are they exactly? Until one knows the difference, the two types of photographs can be quite easily mistaken for one another. So what’s the difference and how can you tell? The daguerreotype came first in 1839. In this process images were created on a highly polished silver-plated sheet of copper and exhibit a mirror-like

quality which can be seen by tilting the image back and forth. An ambrotype on the other hand, came a bit later arriving on the scene in the 1850s. It was less expensive to produce than a daguerreotype and thus became more popular. The image was created by exposing a wet glass plate that was dipped in silver nitrate. When developed, a negative image appeared on the glass plate. To view an ambrotype as a positive image, it must be placed against a dark background. The images usually scan fairly well as you can see in the two examples. The ambrotype is above and the daguerreotype is at right.



## Staff Picks

This month we spotlight Archival Manager Lauren Jarvis's pick, the Clark-Hamilton Papers.



Camp Pike  
April 28, 1918  
Dear Flora:-  
I left Conway  
Friday night, got here and set  
my baggage before twelve but  
there was little sleep for me.  
The song here is "I had  
a good home, but I had  
to leave it", and "We're  
in the army now."  
We were examined this morning

Why did you pick this collection? I did research on the Spanish Flu epidemic and became familiar with this collection. Since Clark was in Camp Pike at the time that the Spanish Flu was really spreading during the War, his eyewitness account of the events are invaluable. He writes about the conditions in the camp for flu sufferers and what people went through.

Who was Benjamin Clark? He was a teacher from Vilonia. He was drafted in 1918 and went to Camp Pike and then Camp Taylor in Kentucky for his training. Later, he went to France where he served until the end of the war. He sent the letters in this collection to his girlfriend, Flora Hamilton of Enders in Faulkner County. Unfortunately, we only have Clark's letters, so we do not have her response, so the conversation is rather one-sided.

Are there any things in the collection that surprised you? He is very detailed about what kind of training he received at Camp Pike and Camp Taylor. Those who want to research life in a World War I era training camp will certainly find this collection interesting. But, beyond that, since the letters begin before the war, they present an interesting snapshot of life in Arkansas in the 1910s.

## New at the AHC

### January Donations and Accessions

#### AHC

Henry Loewer collection, 3 cu. ft.  
Benjamin Oliver Lewis Bible, 1 cu. ft.  
Annie Parnell Dougherty Welch collection, 1 cu. ft.  
John H. Reynolds Correspondence, 0.25 cu. ft.

#### NEARA

Independence County "Bits of Bark from the Family Tree" Vol. 40 No. 4  
December 2015  
Lawrence County Historical Journal, 2015 No. 2  
Lawrence County Historical Journal, 2015 No. 3  
Lawrence County Historical Journal, 2015 No. 4

#### SARA

Field Notes: Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society, No. 7<sup>2</sup>,  
November/December 2015.

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/2016/01/ahc-acquisitions-and-accessions-in.html>

**We appreciate the generous support of our donors!**

*The end of January brought us a good snow. This month we look at a few other great photographs of snowfalls in our collection.*



Cars snowed in in front of a house,  
1930s



Women sledding in front of the State  
Capitol, 1940s



Women making snowballs outside of a  
YMCA building, 1940s.



Vernon and Muzette McCoy standing next to the  
"snow cave" their father made for them. Van  
Buren, 1921



The McCoy kids riding  
their tricycles on a path  
cleared by their father,  
Van Buren, 1921



Dapper snowman wearing a hat, Forster, Arkansas,  
1940