

## *The ASA Unveils Historic State Auditors Book*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 23**

Paper Conservation Workshop  
NEARA  
Powhatan Historic State Park

**July 30**

Heroes of Arkansas Folk Music  
Symposium and Concert  
Arkansas History Commission

**August 5-22**

The Great War: Arkansas  
In World War I  
Delta Cultural Center Depot

**August 20**

All We Need is Love:  
War and Religion in NE Arkansas  
Symposium  
NEARA  
Powhatan Historic State Park

**August 27**

Arkansas's Homerun:  
Major League Training  
In Hot Springs  
Historic Arkansas Museum

Anyone who is a reality television junkie will be familiar with shows like *Storage Wars* where people bid sight unseen on the contents of storage units. Many times the winner of the auction walks away with a significantly valuable item. While not a part of the show, Phillip Palmer of Maumelle, Arkansas, stumbled upon a very important item when he purchased an interesting piece of Arkansas history from an antiques dealer. It was a book recording the correspondence between the State Auditor's office and other officials covering the period 1836 to 1879. Its binding was in bad shape. The years had taken its toll on the book's covers. What Mr. Palmer soon discovered was that he now had a rather important book.

Once in his possession, Mr. Palmer was nervous about his new acquisition. "I was afraid to look at it," he remembers. "I especially knew what I had was significant," he recalls, "after I finally opened the book and saw the name Elias Conway." Conway was the state's first auditor, serving from 1836 to 1849. Later he served as Governor from 1852 to 1860. "That is when I knew it was an important book," he recalls. The book is pretty complete, except that it is missing the period covering the Civil War, which is not surprising. Palmer noted, "So much was lost during the Civil War. This makes donating this book to the Arkansas State Archives that much more important. It is important to preserve as much as we can of this state's past." Having such an important book was a large burden for Palmer and he worried about how he would be able to protect it in case of a weather emergency or fire. "The tornadoes that struck Mayflower a few years ago really settled it. I knew that I wouldn't be able to protect it from that kind of damage. It just made sense to donate it to the Arkansas State Archives."

Mr. Palmer is donating the book in honor of his parents, Dibrell W. Palmer and Billye J. Palmer. His parents were native Arkansans who lived in Van Buren County. "They would be proud to have the honor," remarks Palmer. Palmer officially donated the book on June 15, the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arkansas statehood. "I want it to be a birthday gift to the state," he asserts. Dr. Lisa K. Speer, State Archives Director, says of Palmer and the donation, "The State of Arkansas is indebted to Mr. Palmer that this important piece of history came into his care. The ledger fills a gap in our records from the State Auditor's office. In the hands of a less historically-minded citizen this journal might have been lost." Speer also noted that the inadequacy of the current public records law in Arkansas provides

the archives with no legal process for recovering state records that have fallen into private hands, a process called "replevin" that other state archives use to recover lost or misappropriated official records. "I am very grateful to Mr. Palmer," Speer said, "for understanding that the greatest value in this ledger was the historical worth for telling the story of Arkansas's early days as a state." We are grateful to have such an important piece of Arkansas's history and thank Mr. Palmer for his generous donation!



Archival Manager Jane Wilkerson, ASA Director Lisa Speer, Philip Palmer, and Archival Assistant Brian Irby examine the State Auditor's Journal donated by Mr. Palmer

## *ASA Presents Arkansas Folk Music Symposium*

The Arkansas State Archives will host a "Heroes of Arkansas Folk Music" symposium and concert on Saturday, July 30 from 9:00 a.m. until noon in Conference Room 4A-400 on the fourth floor of the [Multi-Agency Complex building](#) at 1 Capitol Mall. The symposium will feature speakers George West, Charley Sandage, and State Archives staff member Jeff Wellen talking about three Arkansas folk music heroes — Jimmy Driftwood, Almeda Riddle, and Patsy Montana. Each of the three are legends whose talents have helped shape American music.

The folk band, Harmony, will play select songs from each musical personality in between presentations and there will be a brief question and answer session at the end of the symposium. Harmony is a staple at the Ozark Folk Center, where their blend of contemporary and traditional folk music has been entertaining audiences for over two decades.

The seminar is free to attend but registration is required. The deadline for registering will be July 25, and registration is limited, so be sure to make reservations soon. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 30. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Light breakfast refreshments will be served.

For more information about the symposium or to register, contact us at [events.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:events.archives@arkansas.gov) or call us at 501-682-6900. This event is funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

THE ARKANSAS STATE ARCHIVES PRESENTS  
**HEROES OF  
ARKANSAS FOLK  
MUSIC**  
SYMPOSIUM AND CONCERT

With presentations about  
Patsy Montana,  
Almeda Riddle,  
Jimmy Driftwood  
and musical performances  
from Harmony

Saturday,  
July 30th, 2016  
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
4A-400, 1 Capitol Mall,  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Registration is required by July 25.  
Call 682-6900 or email [Events.Archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:Events.Archives@arkansas.gov)  
Breakfast will be provided  
Teachers can earn up to 4 professional development hours

## New Project Archivist at the ASA



This summer we are fortunate to have Danielle Butler working in our office as a Project Archivist. She is working on an important project that will be of great interest to our readers, digitizing material regarding Japanese internment camps.

Danielle Butler grew up in Austin, Texas, and then moved to Texarkana when she was in high school. After high school, she attended Ouachita Baptist University where she completed her BA in History. She then attended UALR and completed her MA in Public History. She focused her masters' thesis on the topic of the history of kitchens in Arkansas. "It is an interesting way of seeing how Arkansans have lived," she explains. At the ASA, Danielle is working on digitizing Japanese internment camp materials and on transcribing materials related to desegregation in Arkansas.

"This project will allow the material chronicling Japanese relocating to be more accessible to researchers," she explains. Previously this material was only available on microfilm, so researchers would have to visit the ASA to access the material. Now that it will be digitized, it will be more accessible.

Since starting this project, Danielle has discovered plenty that will interest researchers. One of the most interesting things she has found are the loyalty questionnaires. After the families were forced into the relocation camps, men of military age were issued a questionnaire to establish their level of loyalty to the United States or to the Japanese emperor. "I get the sense from the questionnaires that the loyalty question offended the Japanese Americans," she argues. "To them there was not a question of loyalty. After all, they were Americans, not Japanese spies."

We are glad to have Danielle working with us this summer and encourage our student readers to consider doing their internships or volunteering at the ASA. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Speer at 501-682-6900 or email [lisa.speer@arkansas.gov](mailto:lisa.speer@arkansas.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!

## 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

## Black History Commission News



ASA Archivist Jeff Lewellen speaking about African American musicians in Arkansas

"African American Arts in Arkansas," was the latest symposium sponsored by The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas State Archives. About 50 people attended the symposium on June 4 at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, and took away a wealth of knowledge. When asked what they took away from the event, Jeff Lewellen and Garland Taylor had interesting responses.

Jeff Lewellen, one of the speakers at the event, reflected on the role that Arkansas played in the development of African American musical artists, "Arkansas's African American musicians turned their eyes to their culture, their faith and their families to create some of the most passionate and influential music in America. Unfortunately, many of these names have been forgotten, or their connection to Arkansas has been down played over the years. . . . If they had been born anywhere else, they may have been musicians, but they would surely not have been the innovative and unique artists as we know them now. Arkansas is special. In good ways and bad. And the passion and determination it takes to overcome your origins forms one into a dynamic artist with a deep, deep soul."

Chicago-based Sculptor Garland Taylor, whose artistic roots are entrenched in Arkansas's soil, remarked after the event, "I now know that in order to fully understand African-American artists and art history in Arkansas I have to acknowledge and understand the ebb and flow of artists and creative ideas traveling between Arkansas and Chicago."

For more information on upcoming events sponsored by the BHCA and the Arkansas State Archives visit our new website at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com) and click on the outreach link.



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST  
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AND STATE ARCHIVES

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

## From the Director



Dr. Lisa K. Speer

June and July were momentous ones for our agency. On July 1, we transitioned from the Arkansas History Commission after 111 years to the Arkansas State Archives. July 1 also found us moving from the administrative umbrella of Parks and Tourism to the [Department of Arkansas Heritage](#). We'd been aligned with Parks and Tourism since 1971, and our regional archives — the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA) at Powhatan Historic State Park and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) at Historic Washington State Park — will continue to reside within those parks. My staff and I are excited about the opportunities that this transfer presents to work more closely with our colleagues in the state museums and historic preservation, while at the same time glad that our relationship will continue with our friends in Arkansas State Parks.

The other big event for the State Archives this summer was the launch of our [new website](#), a project two years in the making. In 2015, the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) funded a \$140,000 grant to allow us to redesign our 12-year old website. Mary Dunn, the Archival Manager for Technology and Access, Danyelle McNeill, Digital Archivist, and myself formed the core group that worked on the first phase of the project, along with the design team at our vendor, Aristotle, Inc. Phase I involved creating mockups of a new site, developing the framework and navigation for the site, cleaning up and merging our 17+ databases for the new integrated records search, and writing content for the new site. Those activities consumed the first year of the project. Once the new site was developed and the 17+ separate records searches on our old website merged into one, all of our staff got involved in running tests to work out the bugs in the new search engine before the site went public. We also enlisted the assistance of commissioners, friends group members, and select patrons to help test the site. To all of those folks, we are very grateful for your time and assistance. I want to give a special shout-out to Archival Manager Mary Dunn, the lead person on this project. During the testing phase, it wasn't unusual for Mary to have several thousand error reports awaiting her review at any one time. The fact that Mary persevered and I never found her hiding under her desk should qualify her for a medal — does the Society of American Archivists award those?

We're very proud of the final result — a website with a contemporary look and easy navigation. The site features links on the landing page to key features, like the integrated records search, the agency's digital collections (the Arkansas Digital Ark-ives), our library catalog, lesson plans, driving directions to our locations, and the websites for our regional archives. We've provided visitors to the site with forms so that they may easily schedule speakers, contact our archivists with questions, book our traveling exhibits and more. From the website, you can read current news, learn about upcoming events, and link to all our social media pages. I hope you'll like the site as much as we do. Let us know what you think — email me at [lisa.speer@arkansas.gov](mailto:lisa.speer@arkansas.gov).

—Lisa K. Speer, Director

### News from NEARA



*Jonesboro Evening Sun* newspaper from October 31, 1937, reporting the mass panic created from Orson Wells' infamous War of the Worlds radio broadcast.

June has been an exciting month for us at NEARA. In addition to participating at the annual Juneteenth celebration at the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pocahontas (for the sixth consecutive year), other good things are coming our way!

The Arkansas Humanities Council is once again funding our summer programming at NEARA. This year, we will host two events – a paper conservation workshop that will take place on July 23 and a symposium on August 20. The

paper conservation workshop is at capacity, but you can register for the August seminar by emailing [northeast.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:northeast.archives@arkansas.gov) or calling 870-878-6521,

One of the major gaps in resources at NEARA has been the lack of microfilm copies of the major regional newspaper for our area. The cost of purchasing that film collection was enormous, and far outside our budget. However, an agreement with the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library allowed the Arkansas State Archives to borrow the film to duplicate for NEARA. Copies of all newspapers, up to 1950, are now available to researchers at our facility. This represents another major milestone in our development and is yet another example of the excellent collaborative environment in which we work. Our friends and colleagues at the libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies, and museums continue to support our work as strongly as we try to support theirs. Many thanks to all these great organizations for their hard work.

### News from SARA

Adeline Ellis has joined the team at SARA in the position of summer intern. She is from Roland, Oklahoma, and is a sophomore English major at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith where she does work study as a Student Archivist at the Pebley Center for Arkansas Historical and Cultural Materials.



SARA summer intern Adeline Ellis

When she's not busy studying or working, she enjoys reading, going to movies, and volunteering at the Fort Smith Museum of History. Of her summer here at SARA she says she is, "excited to learn more about archival work and [to be] working with the collections at SARA as well as learning about the history of Southwest Arkansas while living in the surroundings of Historic Washington State Park."

The SARA Foundation, Inc. sponsors the internship each year and is the friends group for the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives. SARA Foundation's mission includes providing volunteer support, promoting the acquisition of archival materials for SARA, and conducting special projects and fundraisers benefitting SARA. The SARA Foundation depends on membership dues and other contributions to fulfill its mission. General membership dues are available at \$25, and corporate as well as other membership levels are available. For more information, e-mail [waterslu@swarchives.org](mailto:waterslu@swarchives.org), call 870-983-2633, or write to SARA Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 133, Washington, AR 71862.

## The ASA Welcomes Terra Titsworth



One of our most used collections is our vast newspaper collection on microfilm. The ASA has the largest collection of Arkansas newspapers in existence, and the collection keeps growing. In order to keep up with the constant flow of newspapers waiting to be filmed by our staff, the ASA hired Terra Titsworth as extra help a few months ago. She has been a valuable asset to the microphotography department and we are proud to announce that she has become a permanent part of our team.

Terra grew up in Russellville and attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she completed her BA in History in 2007. Always willing to take on new challenges, she also attended Culinary School at Pulaski Technical College. For a number of years she worked as a chef in various restaurants including the Packet House. She has also a background in state government, having worked in the State Land Commissioner and the State Auditors' offices. Terra joined our staff earlier this year and has been learning various tasks involved in the filming and preservation of newspapers.

When she is not working, she enjoys cooking. Her favorite cuisine to cook is Italian. She finds cooking to be relaxing. She will share her gift of cooking with the public at the German Foodways program that the ASA will be presenting in September. Please join us in welcoming Terra to the ASA!

## New at the ASA

### July Donations and Accessions

#### ASA

Secretary of State-Elections Division Records, 46 cu. ft.  
State Board of Barbers Examiners Records, 10 cu. ft.  
Albessie Thompson VHS Tapes, 4 tapes  
Arkansas General Assembly Composite Photographs, 2003 and 2005  
Lamar Bathhouse Stationary, Hot Springs National Park  
"Re-Union Poem," by M.L. Brown  
ALS. John Gatling, Forrest City, AR, 1896  
Peter and Aileen McWilliam Papers, 0.25 cu. ft.  
Photo Postcard "Conway at Night," n.d.  
El Dorado 5th Annual Juneteenth Festival Grant Project Report, 0.02 cu. ft.  
Joycelyn Elders Coloring Book, 0.02 cu. ft.  
Dixie Knight Negatives, 0.02 cu. ft.

#### SARA

Clark County Historical Association Newsletter, March/April/May 2016  
The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas, Winter 2016, Volume 27, No. 1

#### NEARA

The Cross County Era, Cross County Historical Society Newsletter, 1974-1976

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/2016/07/july-2016-asa-acquisitions-and.html>

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

*Summertime is the time for vacation travel. One of the mementos that travelers often pick up are postcards to commemorate their travels. This month we present a few images from a digital collection devoted to postcards in our collection. The full collection is available at <http://ahc.digital-ar.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16790coll7>. We hope you all have a great summer!*



Henderson's Landing, in Lake Norfork in northern Arkansas, 1953



Gathering Peaches in Siloam Springs, circa 1900.



On top of Mt. Nebo, circa 1910.



First Street in Rogers, Arkansas, circa 1880.