

ASA Presents Seminar on Preservation for Archives Month

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2—27
The Great War: Arkansas in World War I
Donald W. Reynolds Library
Mountain Home

October 12
State Agencies Records Preservation
Workshop
MAC Building, 4th Floor

October 29
Using Archival Records to Preserve
Historic Structures
North Little Rock Heritage Center

November 3—20
The Great War: Arkansas in World War I
Magale Library
Southern Arkansas University
Magnolia

Researching the history of a property can help someone learn about their heritage, stimulate the local economy, or perpetuate a community's identity. But what types of sources are used to conduct property research? October is American Archives Month and the Arkansas State Archives' theme for Archives Month is using archival records to research historic structures and properties.

In collaboration with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the North Little Rock History Commission, and Preserve Arkansas, the Arkansas State Archives is holding a seminar "Using Archival Records to Preserve Historic Structures," on October 29 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the North Little Rock Heritage Center, 506 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas. This seminar will discuss how to use archival records effectively and provide strategies for conducting property research, along with researching the social and personal history of a property. Speakers include Rachel Silva Patton of Preserve Arkansas, Callie Williams of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Sandra Taylor Smith, Director of the North Little Rock Heritage Center and Ann Clements of the Arkansas State Archives. Feature presentations include advocating for the preservation of structures and properties; how to research a property for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; researching the local history of a property; the use of photographs to document and advocate for the preservation of a structure; and case studies on the submission of North Little Rock's Argenta Historic District and submission of the O'Kelley House as a personal project and contributing

structure to the Argenta Historic District. Examples of records and collections housed at the State Archives and other research facilities will be highlighted in the presentations.

Arkansas Archives Month 2016 Using Archival Records to Preserve Historic Structures



Records Used:
Deeds Records
Plat Maps
Historic Photographs
City Directories
Sanborn Maps
Tax Records

Event Information
When: October 29th, 2016 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: North Little Rock Heritage Center
Registration Deadline: October 25, 2016
Call: 682-6900
Email: events.archives@arkansas.gov
Lunch will be provided.

Note: Teachers can earn up to 4 hours of professional development credit.



Sources used in historic property research housed at the State Archives include census records, county deed, mortgage, and tax records that help determine property ownership; various types of directories and maps that may help locate a person, business, or landmark; photographs; and newspapers. The State Archives also has numerous collections of personal and family papers, as well as organizational records that may include information related to property and structures. Staff from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program who prepare nominations for the National or Arkansas Registers of Historic Places routinely use the newspaper collection (the largest in Arkansas), county records, and photograph collections for researching people and events associated with properties.

The seminar is free to attend but registration is required. Seating for this seminar is limited and the deadline for registration is October 25. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. A box lunch will be served. For more information about the seminar or to register, contact us at 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 and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Connect with Us on Social Media!

ASA Announces George Sylvester McCue Collection



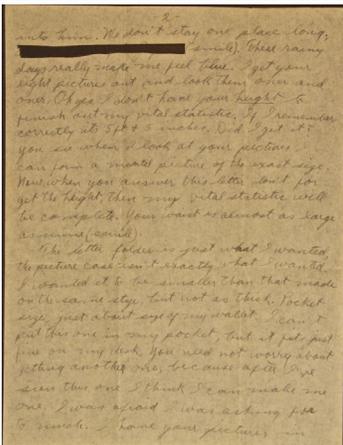
Detail from panoramic photograph taken of Masons in front of the Albert Pike Consistory, 1917

George Sylvester McCue was the son of an Irish immigrant who joined the army just before the Spanish American War in 1898. After the war, he spent time stationed in the Philippines, holding the rank of Second Lieutenant. A decade later, he was stationed in the American Southwest and Mexico City during the United States' search for Pancho Villa. In 1917, McCue came to Arkansas to train soldiers at Camp Pike. That year he also became a Mason, posing for a photograph alongside hundreds of fellow Masons on the front steps of Albert Pike Consistory, a building that would within a few short years, be destroyed by fire and replaced with the current Masonic Temple in downtown Little Rock. After the war, McCue retired to Los Angeles, California, where he died in 1945. After

McCue's wife died, McCue's grandson, Jeffrey S. Seldomridge inherited the collection, which he has generously donated to the State Archives.

The collection contains two panoramic photographs, one of the Masonic temple mentioned above, and one of the training officer staff at Camp Pike in 1917. Additionally, the collection contains McCue's Masonic certificate inducting him into the organization. We are certainly glad to have these photos and are thankful to Mr. Seldomridge for donating them!

Black History Commission News



Letter from Lewis Jackson to Nanette White from somewhere in the South Pacific in 1945. Army censors have marked through the location.

In a few months we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. As we get closer to that time, we recognize the loss of so many of our World War II veterans and we recognize the need to memorialize those brave men and women who served. Often it is difficult to find first-hand accounts of African American soldiers who were serving during World War II. We recently received the final report from a Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant recipient, Michelle Hamilton Rhodes, whose project, "A Soldier's Heart: From the Philippines to Arkansas," details the military career of Rhodes' grandfather, Lewis J. Jackson. The letters document the life of Jackson, a teacher in Pine Bluff to Nanette White, his girlfriend and soon to be wife. The letters cover the years between 1940 and 1945, which was both a significant time for the United States and for Jackson. The letters tell of Jackson's career as an itinerant agriculture teacher in south Arkansas and his time in the military

The letters also cover his time in the armed forces. He had his basic training in Louisiana, then more training in the hot climate of California's desert training camp, a frequent subject of Lewis' letters. Regardless of the weather, Lewis seems to always cherish the letters he receives from Nanette, relating his feeling of hitting the "jack pot" each time he receives a communication from her. After training in California, Lewis was stationed in the Philippines and then later in the Dutch East Indies. His letters provide a rare glimpse into the life of an African American soldier during World War II.

We are happy to receive a copy of Ms. Rhodes' project and we encourage our readers to consider applying for the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant. To read more about the program or to apply, please see our website <http://www.ark-ives.com/about-us/bhca/curtishsykesmemorialgrantprogram.aspx> or contact African American History Program Coordinator Tatyana Oyinloye at 501-682-6892 or via email at tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

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From the Director



As you know from our lead article, October is [American Archives Month](#). Did you also know that another day recognizing the importance of records preservation is celebrated in October? Electronic Records Day is October 10 or “1010” — think bits and bytes. The commemoration, first held in 2010, is sponsored by the Council of State Archivists for the purpose of raising awareness about the importance of managing electronic files and digital data.

Electronic data is fragile — arguably more so than paper records — and its lifespan very short. Archivists and records managers do not have the luxury of time in making decisions on how best to care for these materials, and a wrong decision may well be irreversible. Time is the enemy.

If we sent this newsletter to you as a WordPerfect file, would you be able to open it on your computer? Not likely. You might also be surprised to learn that there are also backwards compatibility issues with PDFs. In our work with state and local government, the Archives’ staff often hears about projects to digitize documents and discard the original, paper records. While digital files can provide easier access for the public and for staff, these projects can have unfortunate long-term consequences if not planned thoughtfully. As researchers, how many of us have encountered missing records because of a courthouse fire or flood? Digitization projects that fail to adequately consider the long-term requirements of migrating and maintaining electronic files can have the same tragic impact as environmental disasters. The phrase “Digital Dark Age” has been popularized to describe the loss of electronic data and multimedia, and the images it conjures up are stark and frightening to those who care about the historical record.

Entities like the [Council of State Archivists](#) and the [Library of Congress](#) provide helpful information to professionals and to laypeople on managing electronic data. So take some time on 10.10.16 to manage your digital data — organize your files and back them up offsite; create meaningful file names to simplify searching; if you work with official records, consult your records retention schedules to determine what you must keep and for how long; and if you have digital images that you absolutely don’t want to lose, make good quality prints. —Dr. Lisa K. Speer



News from NEARA



NEARA was fortunate to be awarded a public programming grant by the Arkansas Humanities Council this summer. The mini-grant provided funds for two events: a paper conservation workshop held in July and a symposium titled “All we need is love: War and Religion in Northeast Arkansas” which took place in August.

In July, participants learned various conservation methods and practiced these on their own documents under the guidance of experts. Then in August, attendees heard from four speakers on the diverse religious development of Northeast Arkansas. It began with Sister Laura Cathcart who presented the history of St. Bernard’s Hospital and the Holy Angels Convent. Next was a thrilling tale of the Jonesboro Church Wars detailed by Dr. Spillman. After lunch, Dr. RJ Hampton spoke about the history and future of the AME Church. The symposium was brought to a wonderful close by Edward Harthorn who presented his NEARA Award winning paper entitled, “Pushing him over the pulpit: David Orr and religious conflict in early Arkansas.”

If you missed coming to the symposium, you can drop by NEARA and watch recordings of all the speakers!

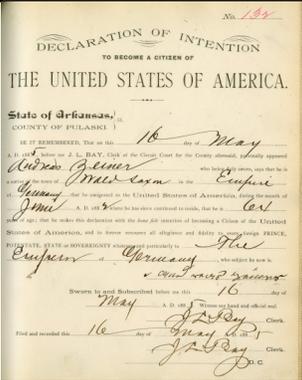
NEARA and ASA staff is grateful to the Arkansas Humanities Council for providing the funds to allow public programming for our patrons to enjoy. We look forward to having exciting new programs next year!

News from SARA



School is back in session! Late summer brings with it the start of the new school year in Arkansas. From the old days of the one room school and the “Three R’s—Reading, Writing, and ‘Rithmetic,” to the new days of the many educational options

and the focus on STEM, online and distance learning, and Common Core standards, school is a part of life in the Natural State. Here in the collections at SARA are various records of the schools of Southwest Arkansas. From school census records to yearbooks to school photographs, patrons can search through the treasure trove of information for a variety of research projects. A recent donation to SARA from Janiece Pounds Green is a photograph of the 1929-1930 third grade class of Dierks School in Howard County. The back identifies the photographer as, “Photographed by Newt Gorman, Gravette, Arkansas, Commercial & Home Portraits, Kodak Finishing, Prints 4c each, Rolls Developed 10c each.” The photograph is in very good condition, but unfortunately the students and teacher are unidentified. If you happen to know who any of them are, we would love to hear from you. You may contact us here at SARA by e-mail at southwest.archives@arkansas.gov or by phone at 870-983-2633. For more educational resources, be sure to check out the digital collections of the Arkansas State Archives at www.ark-ives.com.



Naturalization record for Andreas Zeiner issued in 1885

Many times we are asked about naturalization records by genealogists searching for ancestors. The naturalization record is often the first documentation of an ancestor's arrival in the United States. This month we have acquired a book of naturalization records from Pulaski County covering the years 1882 to 1901.

Congress passed the first law regulating naturalization in 1790 (1 Stat. 103). As a general rule, naturalization was a two-step process that took a minimum of five years. After residing in the United States for two years, an alien could file a "declaration of intent" (so-called "first papers") to become a citizen. After three additional years, the alien could "petition for naturalization." Until 1906, naturalization was always performed in the county courts. After 1906, the process was done on the federal level. As a result, nineteenth century naturalization records can be found in the courthouse in the county in which the immigrant became a citizen.

This book will undoubtedly be an important source of information for our researchers and we are lucky to have such a priceless collection of records and are happy to share them!

**September
Donations and Accessions**

ASA

- Poe Family DNA project grant report
- Height Horticulture Society Minutes and Programs, 1955-1982, 0.25 cubic feet
- George Sylvester McCue photographs and certificate, 1917-1918, 0.25 cu. ft.
- Jennie Johnston photographs and yearbook, 1902-1927. 0.25 cu. ft.
- Pulaski County Naturalization record book, 1882-1902, 1 cu. ft.
- Arkansas Bridge Plates, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, 5 items
- Boiling Out at the Springs: A History of Major League Baseball Training at Hot Springs*
- Descendants of Philip McIntire*

NEARA

- 3 copies of Jonas D. Anderson Thesis "Profits and Progress: Swan C. Dowell and his Northeast Arkansas Land Business" (0.45 cu.ft.)
- 38 Copies of Charcoal drawing of Powhatan Schoolhouse donated by Terri Justus-Mullen (0.3 cu.ft.)
- Copies of 2 1938 photos of Wilma Ingram/Portia HS donated by James Whitlow (0.01 cu.ft.)

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/2016/09/september-2016-acquisitions-and.html>

We appreciate the generous support of our donors!

As our readers may have read on the front page of this issue, we are focusing our October seminar on the topic of preservation. The ASA has been a great research resource for people studying the history of architecture in Arkansas. Last year we debuted a digital collection called, "Strolling Down Main Street, Arkansas," where we showed some of our photographs and postcards of historic buildings in the Natural State. This month we close this newsletter with some selections from that collection.



Showroom window of The Criterion department store, Texarkana, Arkansas, circa 1925



Photograph of downtown Fayetteville taken by Walter Lemke from inside the Washington County Courthouse, circa 1930



Town brass band parades down the street as people listen in Wynne, circa 1915



Main Street in England, 1941



Looking across the railroad tracks in Dumas, 1941