



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

APRIL 2014

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

AHC Announces May Foodways Seminar

March 31 – April 25
African American Legislators exhibit
Nevada County Depot and Museum
Prescott

Chocolate gravy. Purple hull peas. Fried pickles. Cheese dip. Have you ever wondered why Arkansans eat the things we do? How and where did these food traditions get their start, and why have they persisted over time? You'll soon have an opportunity to learn about Arkansas foodways and sample some traditional Arkansas foods prepared by up-and-coming area chefs.

On May 17, the Arkansas History Commission will host "Everything Old is New Again: The Arkansas Foodways Movement," a half-day seminar featuring a line up of speakers who are experts on the subject of Arkansas foodways and food history. The seminar, which is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities will be held at the state-of-the-art Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute on the campus of Pulaski Technical College, located just off I-30, Little Rock-South.



Arkansans eat barbeque in 1940 at the opening day of a Mississippi River truss bridge that connects Lake Village, Arkansas with Greenville, Mississippi

Seminar speakers will include Jody Hardin, founder of the Argenta Market and leader in the state's farm-to-table agriculture movement; Culinary Institute Chef Suzanne Campbell, who will talk about food traditions and demonstrate food preservation techniques in the Institute's Celebrity Chef Theater; Tim Nutt, Director of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas, which publishes *Arkansauce*, a journal of Arkansas foodways; and Kat Robinson, travel and food writer and author of several books on Arkansas foods. Robinson will talk about her latest publication, *Classic Eateries of the Ozarks and the Arkansas River Valley*, and will sign copies of her book, which will be for sale at the event.

An Arkansas foods-themed lunch will be created for seminar participants by the chefs-in-training at the Culinary Institute, and served in the Institute's restaurant, *Le Culinair*. The deadline for registering for this seminar is May 5. There is a \$10 fee for lunch, which is payable at the time of registration. Registration for the seminar is limited; so make your reservations while you can as this is sure to be a popular event. Who doesn't love talking about and eating foods that remind us of home! For more information, please call us at 501-682-6891 or email us at state.archives@arkansas.gov.

March 31 – April 25
"Fought in Earnest" exhibit
Mullins Library
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville

AHC Celebrates the Birthday of the Arkansas State Flag



Replicas of some of the Arkansas flag contest entries on display at the State Capitol building in 2012

February marked the annual anniversary of the Arkansas state flag. On February 26, Jason Irby, a native of Wabbaseka in Jefferson County, honored the flag and its designer, Willie K. Hocker, in a ceremony at Wabbaseka City Park.

In 1912, in response to the need of a state flag to adorn the mast of the newly commissioned battleship, the *USS Arkansas*, the Secretary of State Office's sponsored a contest for Arkansans to submit designs for the new flag. The office received 65 entries. In 1913, legislature adopted Willie K. Hocker's design. The Arkansas History Commission has 47 of the 65 entries in our collection.

Irby remarked after the event, "Giving back to my hometown and community has always been a goal in my life and the Arkansas History Commission has been generous in supporting our project by participating at events and giving consent to use images of Miss Hocker, the *USS Arkansas*, and Arkansas flag designs. I am proud that the Arkansas History Commission, the office of Governor

Beebe, the office of the Secretary of State, the Jefferson County Judge's office, Senator Stephanie Flowers, and our surrounding communities have joined to lift a fading small town surrounded by agriculture that I call home." We are proud to have assisted Mr. Irby and are pleased that the program was a success. Photos from the event are printed on page 4 of this issue.

Conservation Corner



Your cemetery markers may be very old or you may be uncertain as to the actual composition of the stones. As such, it's important to use the correct products to avoid further damage to your markers and loss of the beautiful patina that has developed over the years.

First try to clean a stone with water, wiping away dirt with your hands. This may be all you need to do. However, if the stone still seems dirty, add a bit of a non-ionizing detergent, such as Orvis or Kodak Photo-Flo

to your water. Both products are available online. Orvis, which is often used for washing delicate fabrics, may be found at fabric stores. Use approximately one ounce of a non-ionizing detergent to five gallons of water. Clean with a sponge, and if that isn't effective, work gently with a white nylon brush. Clean upward from the bottom on the stone and rinse well. The non-ionizing surfactants are electrically neutral cleaning agents that won't cause additional damage to your stone and will clean them more thoroughly.

If your marker has black moss growing on it, you can try a very light solution of one gallon of hot water to one ounce of calcium hypochlorite available at pool or hardware stores or on online. Clean gently and rinse well.

There's a bottom line in cleaning stones: don't use bleach and avoid the widely available grocery store detergents. The Internet has lots of information available that can take you into greater depth on procedures and products.

Disclaimer: The Arkansas History Commission does not endorse any particular commercial product for this or any conservation-related activity.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Arkansas History Commission

Ms. Mary Dillard	Roland
Dr. Ray Granade	Arkadelphia
Dr. Ruth Hawkins	Jonesboro
Mr. Michael Lindsey	Fayetteville
Mr. Robert McCarley	Little Rock
Ms. Elizabeth Robbins	Hot Springs
Dr. Robert Sherer	Little Rock

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Mr. Marion Butler	Sherwood
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

Black History Commission News



Ouachita County and Camden will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Union Army's occupation of Camden and the Battle of Poison Spring starting the week of April 14-19, 2014. The Battle of Poison Spring took place on April 18, 1864, during the Camden Expedition of the Red River Campaign. A Union column was bringing supplies to Federal occupiers of Camden when attacked by Confederate troops. The First Kansas Colored Troop

fought in this battle losing 117 men and 65 wounded. The outline of the week is as follows:

- First Person, Civil War Era Letters at Old Post Office, D.A.R. Meeting - April 14
- Free Civil War Movie "Glory" - Ross Center, 6:30 p.m. - April 15
- Camden Civil War Occupation, Re-enactment - Washington Street - April 18
- Engagement at Poison Springs, Re-enactment - Poison Springs Battleground - April 19
- Civil War Commemorative Services - Coleman Stadium, 5:30 p.m. - April 19

African American History Coordinator Tatyana Oyinloye and Black History Commission Chairperson Carla Coleman will be in attendance to help celebrate the momentous occasion. Along with the Black History Commission display and African American legislators display they also will have resource guides available on the Civil War and African American history along with other useful material.



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HOURS: 8 AM-5 PM, MON-SAT
CLOSED STATE HOLIDAYS

New at the AHC

March Donations

Arkansas History Commission

Myra Jones papers. 16 cu. ft.
Westbrook Hotel Collection, Two 3-ring binders.
Governor Rockefeller political cartoon. 1 item.

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives

The Pat Weaver collection. 20 cu. ft.
Francille Riggins Seymour collection. 0.25 cu. ft.
Additions to the Mark Keith Collection. 0.25 cu. ft.
Additions to the Mary Nell Turner Collection. 0.25 cu. ft.

News from NEARA



Kitty Clay Sloan presenting the first NEARA award to Steve Saunders at the Arkansas Historical Association annual meeting.

April 4, 2013, marked the awarding of the first annual NEARA Award. This award, established by descendants of Lawrence County native, politician, short-term governor, and state auditor, Clay Sloan, recognizes excellence in research using primary source materials from the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA).

The first recipient of the NEARA Award is Steve Saunders, a retired architect who now works as a Museum Program Assistant at Powhatan Historic State Park. Sanders was awarded the NEARA award for his paper "Dissecting Davidsonville 1815 - 1829: A Postmortem of Arkansas' First Nine Blocks." In his essay, Saunders writes:

Arkansas Post, first settled in 1686 near the mouth of the Arkansas River, was Arkansas' first settlement. A settlement, however, is not a town. Davidsonville, founded in 1815 on the Black River, within Missouri Territory, may rightly claim a series of firsts in what is now the state of Arkansas. Nine blocks - three by three with a public square in the center - made it the first platted town. Within those blocks was the first post office, land office, cotton gin, and dedicated courthouse. Davidsonville also has the distinction of being Arkansas' first ghost town, abandoned to fade into the shadows of more than 1,400 subsequent Arkansas cities and towns. For fourteen years, the town struggled to establish roots in the wilderness. Fourteen years is a full life for a dog. For humans it's roughly the period of childhood, but in the context of a typical town's existence, fourteen years is a short period of time, indicative of a failure to launch. Davidsonville was such a failure.

Thus begins the tale of a much-heralded community that served as the first county seat of Lawrence County when the county covered most of the area that today encompasses northern Arkansas and a large swath of southern Missouri. We congratulate Steve Saunders for his excellent research! His paper, along with others submitted for the competition are available at the Arkansas History Commission and at NEARA.

From the Director



In March, the Arkansas History Commission, in collaboration with the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Pea Ridge National Military Park, and the Missouri State Museum, repatriated a Civil War flag back to the state of Missouri. You can read about the flag — a 6th Missouri Cavalry flag — and its interesting and circuitous history in last month's issue of our newsletter.

In reflecting on the event's success, many individuals deserve thanks for their part in creating a memorable and dignified occasion. We are indebted to Pea Ridge staff, particularly Superintendent John Morrow, who provided the perfect setting for the event. Thank you for your outstanding hospitality!

Thanks also to the Arkansas Reenactor Educational Association (AREA), Inc., and the 5th Missouri Cavalry for their participation. Reenactors from these groups made the symbolic transfer of the flag, which gave the ceremony added *gravitas*.

We are also grateful to Linda Endersby, Director of the Missouri State Museum, and know that the flag will receive excellent care in its new, permanent home in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Finally, I'm very appreciative of our commissioners and AHC staff for their participation at and leading up to the ceremony. The day would not have been as successful without the efforts of a number of people. You can see photos from the ceremony on page 4 and on our Facebook page.

— Dr. Lisa K. Speer

News from SARA

The collections at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives contain many original courthouse records from Territorial Arkansas. Of special interest is this docket book of Absalom Madding, an early settler and county official. Little is known of his early life, though it seems likely that he was a Virginian who was in Arkansas by 1819 or 1820. He served as a Justice of the Peace and as County Judge of Hempstead County from 1832 to 1835. Madding died in July 1837. With no widow or children left to support after his death, Madding emancipated his fifteen slaves in his will.



On April 3, 1837, Allen M. Oakley, a lawyer from Kentucky and the Hempstead County Clerk from 1824 to 1838, had filed Madding's docket for record. Madding's Docket contains the cases he presided over from 1828 to 1835. Occasionally in the docket, a different hand from Madding's will note that the money the court awarded him has been paid and a signature will follow. The handwritten docket has seen hard times and was probably repaired with cloth tape well before the Civil War, but it has survived for nearly 180 years in its home at Washington as a record of life in early Arkansas.

AHC Repatriates Missouri Civil War Era Flag



AHC Director Lisa Speer addresses the audience



Reenactors made the symbolic transfer of the flag



Reenactors pose with a young visitor to the park



Reenactors make their way through the modern parking lot



Missouri State Museum Director Linda Endersby

Arkansas Flag Memorial Event



Jason Irby discusses the importance of the flag memorial



Sign welcoming visitors to the memorial site



State Capitol Historian Dr. David Ware addresses the crowd

Staff Picks

This month we spotlight Administrative Assistant April Goff's pick, The Military Board of Arkansas Records.

What was the Military Board? It was a three-person committee chaired by the governor that was in charge of helping raise and supply Arkansas's Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

*Hamburg Ashley County
Arkansas, March 11, 1862*
*Miss Gilbert of Ashley County, has
 this day delivered to the undersigned
 Central Committee of said County,
 the following articles of supplies for
 the Military forces of Arkansas, in
 the Confederate or State Service, to-wit:*
3 pair Cotton Socks
*amounting, in all, to the total valuation
 of one ²750 dollars; and in presentation
 of this Certificate at the office of the
 Military Board of Little Rock, said
 sum will be paid to the bearer hereof
 in State or Confederate Bonds.*
J. S. Harris County Judge

Why are these records important? They provide a glimpse of how the army was raised in the state. There is a lot of information on the challenges and costs involved in raising the army.

Are they mostly account books? Not exactly. The majority of the records are receipts for goods or services provided to the army, but there are also things in the records you wouldn't expect to find. For instance, there are some reports from county officials to the Military board early in the war identifying by name those who might be Union army sympathizers. Another interesting thing is that you often find reports in the records of people being sent to 'observe' Federal troop lines. So, basically there are reports of espionage activities.

Are these the complete records from the Military Board? Unfortunately not. We have the majority of the records, but at some point with the end of the war, the records were split up. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has several records as well.

Any other collections that would compliment this collection? Yes, definitely, the Adjutant General's records at the AHC, which dealt with many of the same issues might be of interest.