



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

DECEMBER 2014

AHC and NEARA Announces Lawrence County Symposium

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!

January 19—February 12
African-American Legislators
Banner Exhibit
Arkansas State University,
Mountain Home

December 24-28, January 1
All State Offices are Closed

Happy Holidays!

In November, the Arkansas Humanities Council awarded a program grant to the Arkansas History Commission and its Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA) branch. The grant in part supports a public program on January 15, 2015, at Powhatan Historic State Park. The program, *Erasing Boundaries: Lawrence County at 200*, will feature a variety of speakers presenting research on the political, social, and economic history of territorial Arkansas, and the early archaeology of the region.



Marker placed in Powhatan for Arkansas's Centennial referring to Lawrence County as the "Mother of Counties"

Lawrence County, often called the Mother of Counties because 31 counties in Arkansas and 15 in Missouri were at one time part of the county, was created by the Missouri Territorial legislature January 15, 1815. The county quickly became an early passage for settlers moving into the lands west and southwest of the Mississippi River. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft documented many early settlers and industries in journals; Stephen F. Austin served as judge for one term of court;

Nicholas Trammel was in the region for a number of years before moving on to Texas. For a time, American Indians, European migrants, and both free and enslaved African Americans coexisted in the territory. In a land of abundant natural resources, harsh conditions, and little governmental support, these settlers forged the way for later migration to the territory and further southwest.



Home of Solomon Hewett, where the first Lawrence County Court presided in 1815. The house, now no longer standing, was located in modern day Randolph County

Two tracks of themed sessions will run concurrently at Powhatan Historic State Park for the program. Speakers will present on Social Issues and Family Life in the Powhatan Courthouse; while the topics of economic and political development will be covered by speakers presenting in The Male and Female Academy. Participants can choose between locations, or they can move between the venues for even broader variety. The full [agenda](#) is available for viewing on the Arkansas History Commission News and Events webpage.

Program participants will have an opportunity to share in a Dutch oven lunch of various types of chili, cornbread, and fruit cobblers prepared by state park staff. In the event of bad weather, we will reschedule the event to a later date. Hope to see you there!

For more information or to register for the program, contact the Arkansas History Commission at tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov or call 501-682-6892.



The Arkansas History Commission and the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives present

Erasing Boundaries: Lawrence County at 200

Thursday, January 15, 2015, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Hosted at Powhatan Historic State Park

Registration required by January 12. For more information and to register, visit to www.ark-ives.com.

Conservation Corner



Arkansas's 1836 Constitution
in a clam shell box.

Conservation of Arkansas's constitutions, Quapaw treaty, and secession document—the statehood documents — spanned a number of decades, and the conservation work performed reflects changing views on appropriate treatments for paper.

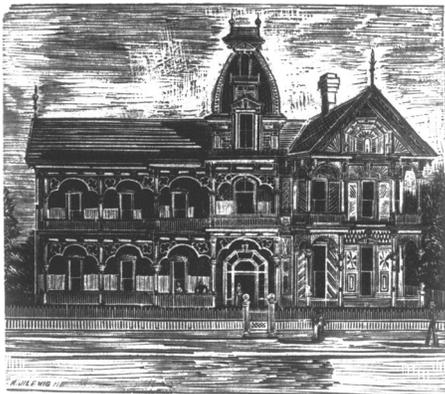
The single shared treatment for the statehood documents is expressed in their exterior housing. The documents are housed in custom-made clamshell boxes that are covered with grey book cloth. These easy-to-identify and made-to-measure boxes hold their documents exactly and mitigate possible damage that could result from handling or exhibition. Also, should there ever be a catastrophic event that mandates quick and permanent evacuation of the facility, the statehood documents are immediately recognizable and are shelved in a “grab and go” location.

Inside the boxes, each document is conserved in a manner specific to the document — some documents have wrappers; for others, mounts and window mats provide bumpers, and in a treatment no longer used, decades ago the 1864 constitution was laminated in heat-set tissue by the National Archives.

With that exception, reversibility was key in conserving and housing the statehood documents. They were mended with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste, and most were cleaned with eraser crumbs. In addition, because many documents are on vellum, flattening the documents by washing or other aqueous treatment was not an option as water can cause vellum to curl and become translucent.

From time-to-time, the constitutions are exhibited in other locations, and their “thousand year” conservation treatments ensure both longevity and the opportunity for Arkansans to see the originals of these priceless documents that are at the heart of Arkansas's heritage.

Black History Commission News



RESIDENCE OF COL. R. M. KNOX, PINE BLUFF.

Home of Col. R.M. Knox as illustrated by Lewis
for the Arkansas Gazette in 1887

Garland Martin Taylor is excited about getting started on “His Birdseye View: Henry Jackson Lewis's Arkansas Years. 1866-1888,” a research project recently funded by the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant Program. This project will result in the compilation of biographical research on Lewis, a well known African American artist and land owner from Pine Bluff in the late 1800's.

When asked how he became interested in Henry Lewis's life, Taylor explained: “This project reminds me of something Alice Walker wrote in her book *In Search of Our Mothers' Garden*. [Walker wrote,] ‘We are a people. A people do not throw their geniuses away. And if they are thrown away, it is our duty as artists and as

witnesses for the future to collect them again for the sake of our children, and, if necessary, bone by bone.’”

The Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program offers grants to fund projects related to African American history in Arkansas, and is currently accepting applications. Potential applicants should note that the deadline for submitting applications to be considered during the next funding cycle is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2015.

We strongly encourage individuals who are considering applying for a Sykes Grant to review [the Sykes Program Overview](#), a Powerpoint presentation provided on our website, and to attend one of the quarterly grant workshops sponsored by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission. All workshops are held at the Arkansas History Commission, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, and registration is required in advance. To register for an upcoming workshop, please contact Tatyana Oyinloye, African American History Program Coordinator at 501-682-6892 or email tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

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

From the Director

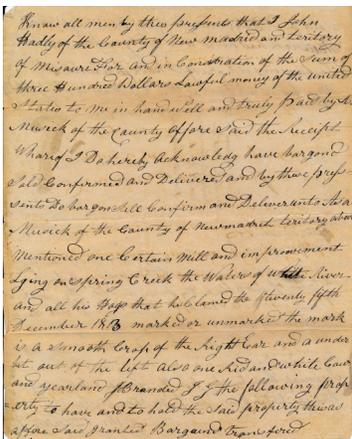


If you were a child growing up in Arkansas in the 1970s, there's a good chance that the first cartoon characters you got excited about meeting at an amusement park weren't wearing mouse ears or princess costumes. In fact, there's a very good chance that those cartoon characters were dressed to epitomize the stereotypical "hillbilly," and were called Lil ' Abner, Daisy Mae, Moonbean McSwine, or another of Al Capp's characters brought to life at *Dogpatch USA*, the theme park located between Jasper and Harrison on scenic State Highway 7. Dogpatch opened in 1968 and operated for twenty-five seasons, finally closing in 1993. For children like me growing up in and around Arkansas, a family day trip to Dogpatch was the stuff of which our best memories are made. I wonder how many of you reading this will remember begging your parents for change for the fish food machines at the trout pond; and how many of you have photos of yourself in front of the Arkansas Razorback or the statue of Jubilation T. Cornpone? The first car I ever "drove" and the first helicopter I ever "flew" (okay, the only one), were rides at Dogpatch. The first old houses to ever capture my imagination were the rustic cabins, which were actually authentic 19th century log structures purchased for the park, and numbered, catalogued, disassembled and reassembled on site. Even throwing away your trash at Dogpatch was fun – and if you visited the park you'll know why!

During the quarter-century of its existence, Dogpatch never achieved the success envisioned by developers – the 300,000 visitors recorded during opening season was the highest number ever recorded at the park. Owner Jess Odom's plans to build a winter sports complex called Marble Falls near Dogpatch, combined with other global environmental and economic factors, left the park with an unmanageable debt. Dogpatch declared bankruptcy in late 1980; and over the next three decades changed owners four times. Of late, Dogpatch has resurfaced in the news and in the consciousness of Arkansans who continue to have sentimental attachment to the park. Charles "Bud" Pelsor purchased the property with plans to restore it for ecotourism; and recently opened up the park for tours by the general public. From the response, it's clear that Dogpatch continues to hold a special place in the memories of those who remember visiting the park during its heyday.

Because of the Arkansas History Commission's relationship with Arkansas Tourism, we have an interesting assortment of information on Dogpatch – press releases, newspaper clippings, film footage, bumper stickers, promotional pamphlets, and photographs. In my own personal family archives, I have photographs and memorabilia from our various family trips. The AHC has decided to start a Pinterest board on Dogpatch to share some of the more interesting finds from our collection. We also would like to invite members of the general public to share your pictures or memorabilia of Dogpatch with us and our Pinterest followers. To participate in the community board, you'll first be required to follow the AHC on Pinterest from your own Pinterest account. You'll then be sent an invitation to pin your memories and images to the public board. To request the invitation, email us at history.commission@arkansas.gov. If you'd rather not create a Pinterest account but you'd like to participate in this project, you can directly send images to us at the same email account and we'll pin them for you. Our Pinterest boards can be found at <http://www.pinterest.com/arkansashc/>.

News from NEARA



A common misconception is that early settlers to Arkansas arrived to empty forests and vacant rivers. However, records indicate that settlers often arrived to sites of active commerce even in the early Missouri Territory period. One such example is the first deed registered in Lawrence County.

The deed was executed in 1814 but registered in 1815 after the formation of the new county. It's called the "Musick Deed" after Asa Musick who purchased a mill, livestock, and improvements from Captain John Hadley. Grist mills were vital to early communities for the expedited

grinding of corn into meal. In a related 1815 court case, Hadley is identified as the man who built the mill and Musick is suing four other men for forcibly taking over the mill and livestock. It was a valuable piece of property that Musick ended up having to pay for again after the jury ruled against him.

Tracking commerce such as is found in the Musick Deed can uncover a hidden wealth of information. It has become a critical step in understanding the development of Arkansas from the territorial period. Centers of commerce are often the foundations for towns, provide frames of reference for travelers and roadways, and often point to the influential people within an area. More records that show early commerce like the Musick Deed can be found throughout NEARA's territorial Lawrence County records.

News from SARA

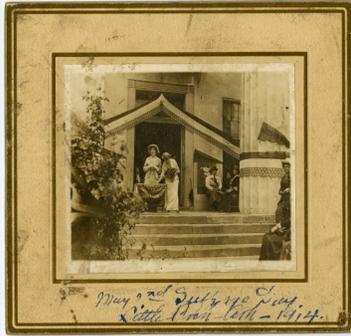
Tom Thumb Weddings were popular in the early decades of the 20th century but are rare to non-existent now. Children, usually under the age of ten, dressed up and portrayed the wedding party. This photograph shows a Tom Thumb Wedding at Washington on May 7, 1915. The children were photographed in costume outside the 1914 School House, then a new building.

How does a Major General fit into this scenario? The little boy, second from the left, is Joseph Calvin Lambert. Born in 1908, he graduated from Washington High School in 1924 and joined the Army in 1925 as an enlisted man. While stationed in Panama, he became a master sergeant and then a 2nd lieutenant in the reserves in 1934. Ordered to active duty in 1940, he later served with the 14th Armored Division in Italy and was its Chief of Staff before its return to the US in October 1945.

With a background in law and military courts, Lambert was tapped to serve at the Nuremburg trials for war criminals. In 1946 he was integrated into the Regular Army. He was appointed a Brigadier General in 1960 and a Major General in 1961. He served as Adjutant General of the United States at the Pentagon from October 1961 to 1966. General Lambert died in 1979 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Staff Picks



This month we feature Archival Assistant Danyelle McNeill's pick, a series of photographs depicting a women's suffrage rally from 1914.

Tell me a little about these pictures. They are photographs I discovered while working on a research guide for women's history. They are from a 1914 suffrage rally. Apparently May 2, 1914, was national Women's Suffrage Day and this was Little Rock's rally for the day. The rally was held in front of the Old

State House. These pictures are important to me because they depict a very important period in the struggle for women's rights.

Why did it resonate so much for you? These photos were taken five years before they would get the right to vote, yet they don't seem to be losing any of their drive to reach their goal. Just from looking at their faces you can see their passion. During the struggle for women's rights, those involved often faced being ostracized for their support. I think that those of us looking at the pictures 100 years later can learn a lot about how to persevere in the fight for those causes we believe in.

What other things can we learn from these pictures? There seemed to have been a lot of support from some of the officials in the state (including Senator James P. Clark, who appears in one of the photos) and it seems that many of those who participated in the event were movers and shakers in the community. It suggests that, although Arkansas was not a leader in the women's suffrage movement, it was certainly ahead of a lot of its southern neighbors.

What other collections or materials at the AHC could those interested in this subject study? We have a number of materials. For instance we have on microfilm a Little Rock newspaper that was devoted to women's issues called *The Women's Chronicle*. And of course, we are still working on a resource guide and digital collection for women's history which we will debut this coming spring.

New at the AHC

November Donations and Accessions

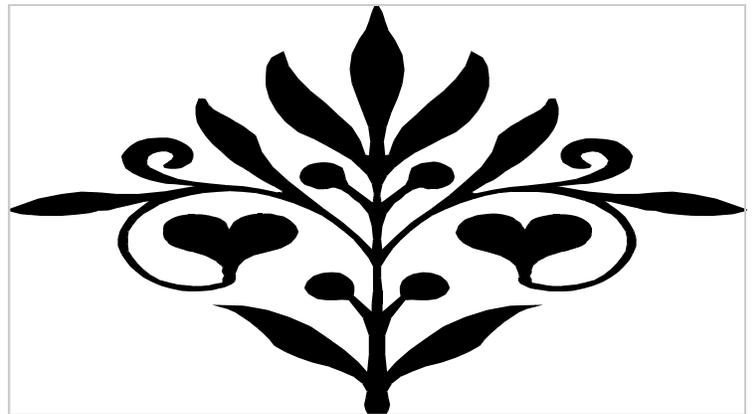
AHC

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism: Legacy Program, 2 cu. ft.
Dr. and Mrs. T.W. Hardison, 44 proofs and negatives
Arkansas Quiz Bowl Collection, 2014: T-shirt and Notebook
New Galilee Landmark Missionary Baptist Church Records, 3 cu. ft.
Some Moor-Moores, Vol. 2: Mabelle's Book

SARA

Clark County Historical Journal, 2014, Clark County Historical Association, Arkadelphia, Arkansas
East Texas Historical Journal. Vol. 52, No. 2, Fall 2014
Field Notes: Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society. No. 381, November–December 2014

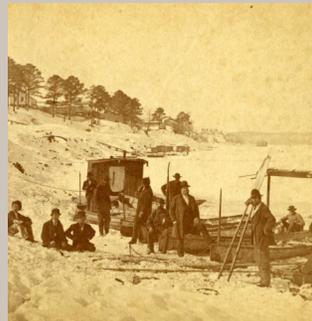
We appreciate the generous support of our donors!



In honor of the upcoming holiday season, we at the Arkansas History Commission thought we'd share some of our favorite winter scenes from our collection



Child happily shoveling snow



Workers attempting to get boats across the frozen Arkansas River, 1875



Postcard depicting snowy Little Rock, 1906



Women having a snowball fight in Eureka Springs. circa 1890

**Our offices will be closed
December 24—28 and
January 1**

**We wish you all a happy
holiday!**



Unidentified neighborhood in Little Rock, circa 1900