



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

JANUARY 2015

Lawrence County Bicentennial Celebrated on January 15

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!

*January 5—January 23
Fought in Earnest
North Little Rock History
Commission*

*February 2—22
African-American Legislators
Banner Exhibit
North Little Rock History
Commission*

January 15, 2015, marked the bicentennial of the creation of Lawrence County by the Missouri Territorial Legislature. Initially comprising much of modern-day northern Arkansas and southern Missouri, the county had shrunk significantly by the time Arkansas Territory was created in 1819. Nevertheless, more than one-third of the population of the newly-created Arkansas Territory and more than one-quarter of the slaves in the territory lived in Lawrence County by the time of its creation.

To mark the date and to celebrate the significance of the county in the early development of this region, the Arkansas History Commission and Powhatan Historic State Park hosted *Erasing Boundaries: Lawrence County at 200*. The symposium featured concurrent sessions of speakers who spoke about the social, racial, gender, political, economic, and geographic opportunities and challenges faced by those settlers who made their way to these lands. Speakers included faculty from Arkansas State University, the University of Central Arkansas, and Williams Baptist College, archaeologists from the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, and independent scholars from St. Louis, Missouri, and Benton, Arkansas. Staff from both the Arkansas History Commission and Powhatan Historic State Park also presented at the symposium.



Crowd listens to Blake Perkins at the Lawrence County Courthouse

In addition to a talented group of speakers, the more than 130 attendees, volunteers, and staff enjoyed a Dutch oven lunch featuring a variety of chili and fruit cobbler offerings. Commissioner Ruth Hawkins read a resolution prepared by the Arkansas History Commission honoring the late Evelyn Flippo and presented a framed copy of the resolution to Mrs. Flippo's daughter Darlene Moore. Mrs. Flippo was instrumental in saving the Territorial records from the Powhatan courthouse – records that form the foundation of the History Commission's collections at the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives.

Funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage helped to make the event a success!

AHC Kicks off the New Year with New Research Room Technology

Moving into the new year, the Arkansas History Commission is pleased to announce new services for researchers at the Arkansas History Commission and its regional branches. As of January 1, the AHC is offering a variety of options to researchers for obtaining copies of materials held at its three locations. Researchers will now be able to scan and save images from the AHC's microfilm collection on select machines in the AHC research room in Little Rock. Flash drives can be purchased at the AHC Research Room desk for \$5.75 per 2GB drive. Additionally, the AHC is adding new media duplication services for film and sound recordings. At the SARA and NEARA branches researchers will only be able to scan documents, but we hope to add the new equipment for scanning film in the near future.

The AHC has also adjusted charges for several copying and duplication services. In order to make pricing of photocopies more consistent, the AHC has adjusted the costs of all copies and mail order copies to 25 cents per page with a \$5.00 processing fee for mail order copies. Pricing on photographic copies and microfilm roll duplication have decreased in 2015. To view the full list of services and pricing, please visit:

http://www.adptfoi.com/History/Services_2015.pdf

Many of the rolls of film in our collection were filmed long ago when the equipment for filming was not as advanced as it is now, resulting in poor film quality. Unfortunately, many of the newspapers that were filmed using the old equipment no longer exist due to deterioration. Archivist Lauren Jarvis explains, "We are very excited to offer microfilm scanning as an option for our patrons. This equipment allows for better quality copies from our film, especially on older film that might be too dark or too hard to read otherwise. By selling the flash drives we are also able to offer a more economical alternative for patrons who may need to copy a large amount of material." We are sure that our patrons will be pleased with these new options and we encourage you all to try them soon!



Donna Carver of the Jenkins Ferry Battlefield Preservation Society uses the new equipment to make copies of newspaper articles

Conservation Corner



Leather bound books suffering from red rot

Whether to treat leather-bound books with wax, oil, or other preparation is a matter of some debate. In the past, leather dressings such as British Museum Leather Dressing, Renaissance Wax, and neatsfoot oil were thought to keep leather supple and to enhance the beauty of leather books. Nowadays reliance upon good environmental controls and careful housekeeping practices should keep in good condition leather books that haven't begun to deteriorate. We're in an environment of "less is more" with respect to book conservation and when it comes to waxing leather, experts conclude that the benefits are largely cosmetic. In fact,

application of products may cause additional damage. Wax may dry and cake in the grains of the leather and present significant challenges in its removal once it hardens and cracks while doing little to encourage longevity.

Red rot is annoying and is one of the most common problems associated with elderly leather books. Unfortunately, there is little to be done when red rot is advanced, when the leather literally crumbles at the touch. If red rot is at an early stage, a preparation such as Klucel C or Cellugel can be applied to consolidate flaking leather. These products are easily absorbed, leave behind little or no residue, and won't darken or discolor leather. For seriously affected books, AHC staff makes polyester jackets similar to library book jackets. Easy to affix polyester book jackets are available in a variety of sizes from library supply companies or one can make a simple wrapper with a strip of polyester called Melinex.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Arkansas History Commission

Ms. Mary Dillard	Malvern
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

The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission will be hosting a symposium on Saturday, February 7, at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The symposium's theme, "The Roots of African American Education in Arkansas," will feature speakers, Peggy Lloyd, Dr. Joseph Hale, Amanda L. Paige and Gwendolyn Twillie. Topics will include Ila Upchurch, the history of the Colored Industrial Institute, the Jeanes Teacher Program, and a living history presentation about the life of Charlotte Stephens.

The seminar is free but registration is required. Check-in will begin at 9:15 a.m. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Lunch will be provided. Registration is limited and the deadline for registration will be February 2, so be sure to make reservations soon by calling 501-682-6900 or email Tatyana Oyinloye at tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov.

Each year the BHCA and the AHC host seminars in February and in June. Themes from some of the past seminars include *Growing Up In Arkansas: African American Communities*, *Emancipation Proclamation: What it Meant to African American in Arkansas* and *Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893*. The goal for these seminars is to promote Arkansas's unique African American history and to give educators and students a broader perspective on the topic.



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

From the Director



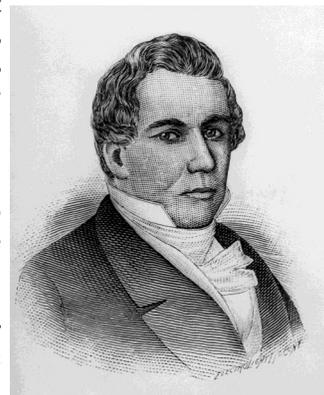
This month, as we inaugurate a new governor, we should consider that Arkansas has had 46 governors who have all given inaugural addresses. The first governor of the State of Arkansas, James Sevier Conway, had to delay his inauguration due to the fact that the Capitol building (now known as the Old State House) was not finished in time for him to take the oath of office. In September 1836, various dignitaries escorted Governor Conway to the main chamber of the state Capitol building. Governor Conway entered the House of Representatives chamber and, flanked by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, addressed those gathered in the House chamber. "The date of our existence, as a free and independent State, has commenced," Conway told those gathered.

The Arkansas History Commission holds many of the papers of the state's governors. In 2013, the History Commission was awarded a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) in the amount of \$48,500 to conserve, preserve and process 16 major collections of Arkansas gubernatorial papers and another 22 small manuscript collections. Each collection holds a variety of archival documents, including photographs, microfilm, newspapers, correspondence, publications, programs, circulars, campaign material, legislative papers, invitations, requisitions, vouchers, tax information, telegrams, and scrapbooks. AHC staff is entering into the final phase of the project, and completing work on the papers of former Governors Sidney McMath, Carl Bailey, Thomas C. McRae, George Washington Hays, and Benjamin T. Laney.

In addition to the manuscript materials, History Commission staff has also produced a research guide to Arkansas governors' materials at institutions around the state and nation. The free research guide can be obtained at our three facilities and online in the AHC Resource Guides link at: <http://ahc.digital-ar.org/>.

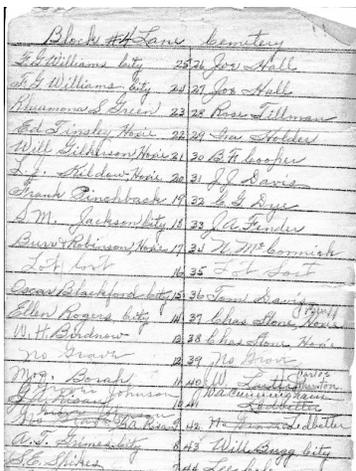
We are very grateful to the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council for the funding it has provided for this project. As the state archives of Arkansas, the gubernatorial papers are among the most important ones we hold, documenting the workings of the highest office in state government. The ANCRC's support allows us to not only provide better protection for these papers, but also to provide improved public access to them.

—Dr. Lisa K. Speer



Governor James Sevier Conway
1836-1840

News from NEARA

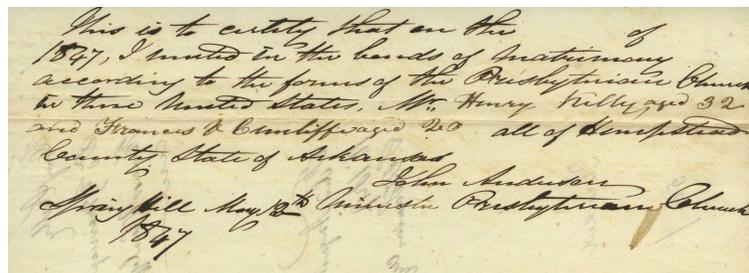


William R. Lane was an entrepreneur and farmer in Lawrence County around the turn of the 20th century. He was born in 1864 in New York but by 1895, Lane was in Arkansas and married to Duffie Coffey. In 1910, he used 20 acres of his Lawrence County farm to establish Lane Cemetery, where he sold burial plots to area residents.

Lane was an active entrepreneur, as is evident in the various court records and the William R. Lane collection at NEARA. He was involved in several businesses, ranging from farming to money lending. Arguably, the most successful of his ventures was plot sales for his cemetery. In the Lane collection is the original paperwork documenting the sale of burial plots. Some of the oldest burial sites in the cemetery are currently unknown though they could possibly be identified through these early records.

Lane died in 1925 at the age of 61, survived by his wife and daughter. Four years later in 1929, Lucian Andrews added 10 acres to Lane Cemetery. Eventually, Lane Cemetery was sold to Higginbotham Funeral Service and in 1940 a preservation association was organized for the cemetery at which point it was renamed Lawrence Memorial. At 30 acres, Lawrence Memorial Cemetery, located in Walnut Ridge, is the largest in Lawrence County. More information about the Lawrence Memorial Cemetery is available in William R. Lane collection at NEARA.

News from SARA



Original antebellum marriage licenses are simple handwritten slips of paper from the minister or official who performed the ceremony. They were then sent to the Clerk of Court for recording. In this example, Rev. John Anderson of Spring Hill, Hempstead County, Arkansas, notes that he united Mr. Henry Kelly, 32, and Frances U. Cuncliffe, 20, both of Hempstead County, "according to the forms of the Presbyterian Church in these United States" on May 12, 1847.

Little is known of the bridal couple, but Rev. Anderson has a remarkable story. Born in Ireland in 1803, he married in 1834 and left for the United States with his new wife shortly thereafter. They arrived in New York, settled in New Jersey and then moved on to Virginia and Arkansas in the 1840s. As a Presbyterian minister, Anderson was well-educated and established a school at Spring Hill, a community of well-to-do Virginians farming in the fertile Red River Valley.

Spring Hill, however, soon suffered a decline, and Anderson moved on to Clarksville in Red River County, Texas, in 1849. He established a school and remained there until his death in 1884. Anderson's success paved the way for a famous descendant. Born in Texarkana, Texas, in 1930, his great-great-grandson is a billionaire businessman and former Independent candidate for President of the United States: Ross Perot.

Staff Picks



People enjoying watching the outhouse races

This month we feature Archival Technician Adrienne McGill's choice, photographs of Mountain View's 1992 Annual Bean Fest.

Why did you pick these pictures? I've been working on the photographs we obtained from the Ozark Cultural Resource Center and I came across these.

They are pictures from a community festival and what drew me most was that they depict a small town with a lot of community spirit. The people are all collecting together and I think that is neat.

What is the Bean Festival? It is a festival celebrating the community. People from around the area gather in Mountain View to share folk customs, music, and crafts. Musicians gather and play on the courthouse square, they bring quilts and corn shuck dolls with them.

There are a lot of people gathered in the pictures. This festival still is ongoing. Last summer they had the 32nd Bean Fest. The people have a lot of fun. They dress in pioneer and traditional Scottish clothing. Some of the people dress like the Flintstones or like clowns. And of course, fitting with the theme of beans, they have outhouse races!

Are there other collections that are related that researchers might find interesting? The Ozark Folk Center material came from Mountain View. We have tons of music that came with that collection. In fact, we have the largest collection of Ozark folk music in the country.

New at the AHC

December Donations and Accessions

AHC

Fulton Family Bible, 0.50 cu. feet
Jeanne McDaniel Collection, 0.50 cu. feet
Arkansas House of Representative Records, 2011 -2012, 4 cu. ft.
Arkansas Senate Journals, 2013 -2014, 4 cu. ft.

SARA

Jerry D. Byers Collection, 0.25 cu. ft.
Our Family Heritage: Davis/Bowden/Robberts/Purtle/Benge/Burns/Robison, by Jerry Don Byers and Dorothy Taylor Perry
Henderson State University STAR Yearbook. Vol. 95.

NEARA

Mr. Chairman: The Life and Legacy of Wilbur D. Mills by Kay Collett Goss
Wildflowers of Arkansas by Carl G. Hunter
Arkansas: An Explorer's Guide by Jana Wood
One Summer in Arkansas: a novel by Marcia Kemp Sterling
Arkansas: A History by Harry S. Ashmore
Intrepid Arkansas Traveler by Michael Reisig
The Battle of Jonesboro: August 2, 1862 by W. Danny Honnoll

We always receive more material than we are able to list in our newsletter. For a full listing, see our webpage (www.ark-ives.com) and our Facebook page.

We appreciate the generous support of our donors!

Arkansas Governors' Inaugurations through the Years



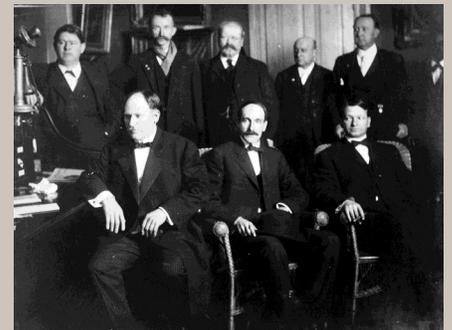
Sidney McMath gives his inaugural speech in front of the Capitol building in 1949



Dale Bumpers takes the oath of office in the House of Representatives chamber in 1971



David Pryor speaks on his inauguration day in front of the Old State House in 1975



George W. Donaghey (left, first row) with his staff of the day of his inauguration in 1909