



# THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

MARCH 2015

## *AHC Unveils New Women's History Guide*

### **BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!**

**March 16—April 14**  
*Fought in Earnest*  
*College of the Ouachitas*  
*Malvern*

Most of us know that Arkansas has had a long and unique history. Many people don't always realize that Arkansas women, in particular, have had an equally unique and compelling past. They have, in fact, been political ground breakers and leaders in breaking the glass ceiling in the fight for equal rights.

For example, in 1932 Hattie Caraway became the first elected female senator in the U.S., representing Arkansas until 1945. And as early as the 1880s, Arkansas had a suffrage newspaper run by women in Little Rock. The *Woman's Chronicle* advocated for social and political change at a time when women's suffrage was barely on the political horizon.

In commemoration of National Women's History Month this March, the Arkansas History Commission released an Arkansas Women's History resource guide and a corresponding online digital collection. Although the resource guide isn't completely comprehensive, it contains a large selection of sources from the AHC's special collections, including manuscript collections and microfilm collections, as well as books, photographs, and printed ephemera.



Senator Hattie Caraway  
1931-1945

The online digital collection joins a number of other digital collections, including historic Arkansas maps, postcards, a World War I collection and lesson plans. The Arkansas Women's History digital collection now initially features unique photographs focusing on Arkansas women's history. Additional items will be added in the coming months. Photographs include images of Charlotte Stephens, the first African American teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas women's suffrage, female workers at Arkansas ordnance plants during World War II, war posters and other miscellaneous images.

The Arkansas Women's History digital collection and resource guide, along with other digital collections and resource guides created by AHC staff, can be accessed on our digital collections website, the Arkansas Digital Ark-ives at <http://ahc.digital-ar.org/>.

## *The AHC Celebrates the Legacy of a Female Arkansan*

This month we celebrate the role that women have played in the history of Arkansas. Arkansas has had many examples of women who have been leaders in important social and political movements. In fact, Arkansas had one of the first female mayors in the United States. In 1925, Winslow, a resort town near Springdale, elected one of the first all-female city governments in the country. After many of the town's leading women voiced concerns over city politics, male politicians suggested that they run for city government. The women, led by Maud Duncan as a mayoral candidate, accepted their challenge. Duncan had an eventful career long before she entered politics. She was one of the first female certified pharmacists in the state. She also ran the city's newspaper, the *Winslow American*. Since she ran the only city newspaper, there was little opposition to her candidacy and on Election Day, she and an entire female slate of candidates for city council, swept to victory. The story gathered press from across the country as reporters curiously covered the so-called "Petticoat Government".

The AHC has a number of materials related to Maud Duncan including some profiles written about her in the *Arkansas Publisher* and issues of her newspaper, the *Winslow American*.



## Treasures from the Attic



This month we feature a butter press owned by Archival Technician John Freshour

How did you come to own this butter press? My wife's ancestors owned a dairy farm in Waldron in Scott County. Over the years, this press has been handed down through the family and that's how we came to have it. The earliest owner of the press was my wife's great-great-grandmother, Josie Hellen Smith Wakefield. So, it is from the early 1900s.

How did it work? The person making the butter would churn the butter and then pour the butter into the butter press. Since this was a family business, they had a family symbol, which was on the press, so when the butter was pressed into shape, it would have the family symbol on the top. It was a way to brand the butter with a logo.

What happened to the farm? Over the years the people who ran the farm died off, and the next generations were not interested in running a dairy farm. So, the farm was split up through auctions.

Have you guys tried to use the press? Unfortunately, there is a large crack in the side of the press, so there's no way it can be used. So, now we keep it for decorative and sentimental value.

Are there any interesting stories that have been passed down about the butter making business? Marcine Newberry, my wife's great-grandmother, used to ride an old mule all over Waldron selling butter. One time when she was out she was attacked by a mountain lion. She had an ornate saddle that she used on the mule and the mountain lion slashed the saddle. You could still see the claw marks on the saddle. Unfortunately, no one in the family knows what happened to the saddle.

## KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

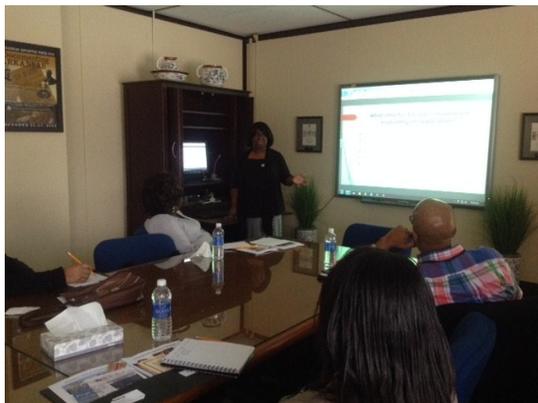
### Arkansas History Commission

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Dr. Ruth Hawkins	Jonesboro
Mr. Michael Lindsey	Fayetteville
Mr. Robert McCarley	Little Rock
Ms. Elizabeth Robbins	Hot Springs
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### Black History Commission of Arkansas

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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



African American History Coordinator Tatyana Oyinloye discusses the grant writing process

February was a very busy month for African American History Coordinator Tatyana Oyinloye and the Black History Commission of Arkansas as we were traveling the state promoting African American history. Since February was Black History Month, we were in great demand. We made appearances at several events commemorating African American contributions to the history of Arkansas. Among other events, the BHCA held a seminar on "The Roots of African American Education in Arkansas," at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock on February 7. The event was a great success and we thank all of those who attended!

In early March, the BHCA hosted a grant workshop promote the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program, funded by the Arkansas General Assembly, and administered by the BHCA. The BHCA is currently accepting applications for projects related to public programming, preservation, and acquisition of African American history every month between now and June 1, 2015. Information on the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial grant program may be obtained by calling Tatyana Oyinloye, the African American History Program Coordinator, at 501-682-6892 or emailing [tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov](mailto:tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov). The [guidelines and application forms](#) for the grant program are also available on the website of the Arkansas History Commission at: <http://www.ark-ives.com/abhac/sykes.aspx>.



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## From the Director



*"The State [of Arkansas] has expended millions in making history; will she not spend a few thousand in preserving it? Arkansas has been much abused and is still misunderstood. Perhaps no other one thing would do so much to set her right before the world and to raise her in the estimation of proud-spirited people as for her to provide liberally for the collection, preservation and publication of the source material of her history."*  
*Administrative Report of the Arkansas Historical Association, 1906*

Book I of *Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association* contained a report of the fledgling Arkansas History Commission, created during the 1905 legislative session. The report, submitted from Fayetteville on October 17, 1906, by the commission's original members, was addressed to "His Excellency, the Governor of Arkansas," who was at that time Jeff Davis. Davis, who had campaigned on a platform of governmental economy, had not supported the creation of a state archives when Senator Calvin T. Cotham's bill (SB No. 87) to create the Arkansas History Commission was introduced in 1905. Although the bill found widespread support in both houses of the General Assembly, Governor Jeff Davis vetoed the bill, noting in his veto message that he could not approve a bill that did not return a substantial benefit to the people. Thankfully, the 1905 General Assembly understood the "substantial benefit" that a state archives could and does provide to collecting and preserving the historical records Arkansas, and passed the Cotham Bill over Davis's veto by a wide margin. Reynolds hailed the bill's passage as a "public recognition by the State of its duty to its history and its public records." Despite this initial victory, the struggle to develop a full-fledged state archives was just beginning.

Initially tasked with making "a full investigation with a view of locating and ascertaining the present state of preservation of all extant sources of information concerning the history of Arkansas from the earliest times, including public records, newspaper files, battlefields in the State, and all documents pertaining to the part of Arkansas and her troops played in all wars in which our people have engaged," the commission's work was undertaken largely by correspondence, with responses often taking a long time to arrive. Additionally, the members of the commission were occupied with other professions. John Hugh Reynolds, who served as the first secretary to the Arkansas History Commission and worked for several years without pay, was a University of Arkansas professor of history. Despite these obstacles, this early commission was successful in accumulating material for the new state archives.

In the 1906 report Davis, the commissioners encouraged that Arkansas would follow the "Alabama Plan," and recommended hiring a permanent director for the state archives. Unfortunately, a permanent director was not yet on the horizon. Next issue: The Dallas Herndon years and beyond.

—Dr. Lisa K. Speer

## News from NEARA



School photo from the Portia Pontiacs school annual

NEARA recently received a donation of the Devoe Elbert Hedrick papers. Hedrick was born November 5, 1919. He retired from the U.S. Navy as a Warrant Officer and passed away January 25, 2012, in Texarkana, Texas.

Along with the records came a beautifully written letter that clearly illustrates how one man prized his home and friends in Arkansas. According to that letter,

Devoe "lived in a series of apartments since at least 1989, so he had very few personal possessions at the time of his death. However, the enclosed items were important enough for him to move from apartment to apartment, then eventually to my mother's house, and finally to the retirement apartment that they moved into just two months before he passed. . . they were that important to him, I felt they were too important to throw away. . . He donated his body to the Genesis program at Medical Education & Research Institute of Memphis because he had lived successfully and healthfully with diabetes since approximately the age of 50 and he hoped studying him would help science find a cure."

What an amazing man, whose legacy extends beyond his 1939 Portia High School annual, high school diploma, photographs, and newspaper clippings to his desire to advance the cause of medical research! NEARA is proud to be the recipient of the records he held so dear and to share his legacy with our researchers.

## News from SARA

The negative of this almost ghostly photo was found in the Nix Collection from Stamps, Arkansas. It was in an envelope dated October 19, 1934, from Patterson's Art Shop in Texarkana, Texas. Patterson's Photography is still in business in Texarkana, Texas, today. The long-ago customer was requesting prints from the negative.



The photo shows the interior of the Cabe store and Mr. Charles L. Cabe surveying its extensive stock. It is a memento of one of the largest businesses in Southwest Arkansas and at one time the world's largest producer of yellow pine lumber: the Bodcaw Lumber Co. The Bodcaw Lumber Company operated in Stamps from 1889 to 1932. The Cabe Store had been the commissary of the lumber concern. The original commissary burned about 1915 and was re-built.

C. L. Cabe, a native of Alabama who had come to East Texas and Arkansas in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, had served as its manager for years. When the Bodcaw Lumber Co. decided to leave Stamps, he purchased the commissary in 1931, and it became "Cabe's". Already at retirement age at the time he acquired the store, Cabe soon moved to Texarkana and left the store in the hands of managers. He died in Texarkana in 1950.

The store building is still standing in Stamps, is in excellent condition and is now a furniture store. It is the Nix Home Center and is a part of the history of southwest Arkansas.

## Staff Picks



This month we feature the pick of Imaging and Preservation Supervisor Tim Schultz and his pick of a photographic order form from 1944.

What is this and why is it significant? It is an order form that Governor Homer Adkins sent to Jungkind Photographic for fifteen prints. It only cost \$.82, which is amazing for fifteen prints.

Why did this jump out as something interesting to you? I worked for years in the photography business, so I'm familiar with the process. Plus, I did a lot of business with Jungkind Photographic. I was also curious about the type of film listed on the form. By the time I was in business, that type of film was already obsolete.

How long would it have taken to do a print at that time? Probably would have taken anywhere from three to five days. This is before we had the ability to do prints from digital sources, so it would have been much slower back then.

Are there any other related materials at the AHC? The Homer Adkins Papers come to mind for obvious reasons. Adkins was governor at the time of World War II, so those interested in studying how the state mobilized for war might find his collection very useful.

## New at the AHC

### February Donations and Accessions

#### AHC

The Tour: Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 1 VHS Photograph of the University of Arkansas Auditorium

#### SARA

2000 Watermelon Festival Papers, 0.5 cu. ft.  
McRae Papers, 0.5 cu. ft.  
Hempstead County Marriage Licenses, 0.125 cu. ft.

#### NEARA

Genealogical County Map of the United States of America  
United Methodist Church Arkansas Conference, 1.5 cu. ft.

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](http://www.ark-ives.com)) and our Facebook page.

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

*In honor of Women's History Month, the AHC is proud to present a few pictures of women who have made a contribution or had an impact on the history of Arkansas*



Mary Francis Dodson inspects a fuel cell at the Firestone plant. In Magnolia



Girl's choir from the Consolidated White River Academy in Brinkley, 1939



Grace Mason works at a transcription machine at the Lion Oil Company in El Dorado, 1947



A crowd of Rosie the Riveters, bomb detonation plant workers



Maud Duncan at her printing press in Winslow