



# THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

NOVEMBER 2014

## AHC Presents Mammoth Spring State Park Collection

### BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!

**November 6—December 2**  
*"Fought in Earnest"*  
exhibit  
Williams Baptist College  
Walnut Ridge

**November 27-30**  
All State Offices are Closed

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

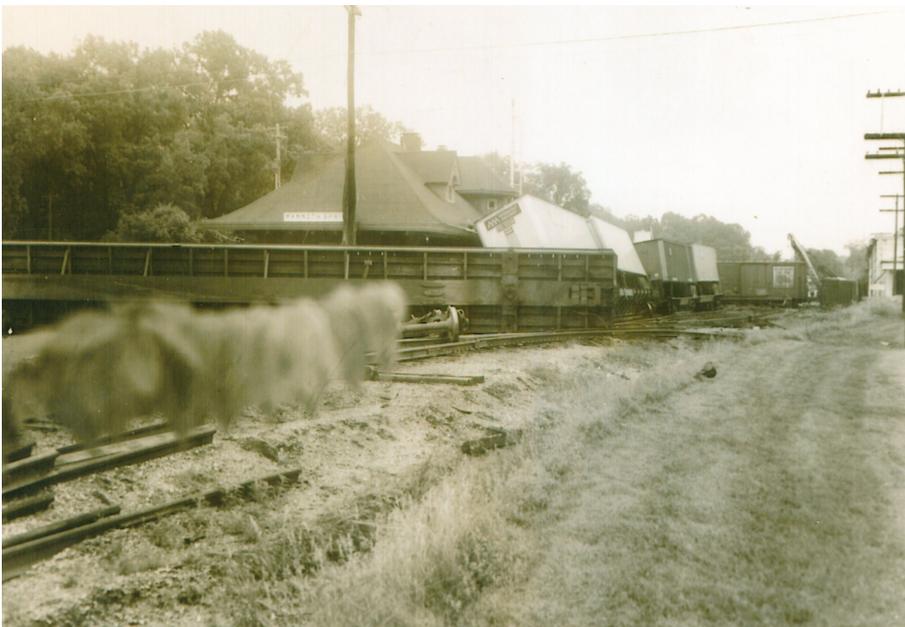
The Arkansas History Commission recently acquired a large collection of memorabilia from Mammoth Spring State Park. This wide-ranging collection of books, railroading magazines, artifacts, photographs, and postcards presents something for just about everyone with an interest in the town, the people, the park, or the springs. Railroad enthusiasts will find materials on the Frisco as well as other train lines.

As part of an effort at downsizing and consolidation, Mammoth Spring State Park had to remove many of the items donated or collected over many years. While these materials could no longer reside at the park, they still have significant historical value. For this reason, the collection was divided between the Arkansas History Commission's Little Rock archives and the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives branch of the agency. Artifacts and some railroading forms collected at the park are now located in Little Rock, and postcards, photographs, books, and many other documentary resources now reside at NEARA.



*Captain and Mrs. A.L. Cooper.*  
A Union veteran, Captain Cooper was instrumental with Confederate veteran Captain Mack Archer in organizing the first Blue and Grey Reunion.

The collection is significant because it documents roughly a century of life and development in the Mammoth Spring area. It answers important questions such as: What were the early businesses, and who were the early business leaders? How did residents support themselves? How did the springs influence settlement and development? In what ways did the railroad influence settlement and development?



*From the collection: Train wreck in Mammoth Spring in 1971 causes a stir in the community.*

Photographs and postcards comprise the bulk of the collection. If a picture is worth a thousand words, there are hundreds of thousands of words in pictures represented here. Early photographs of the reunion of Confederate veterans share space with early photographs of hotels built in hopes of attracting tourists to the springs. Photographs show the rise of the Frisco Railroad and help to demonstrate the rapid shift from steam engines to diesel-powered ones.

In addition to photographs and postcards, the collection includes a substantial number of books, forms, publications, maps, and correspondence related to railroading. From inception through nationalization of the country's railroads during World War I to modern issues for railroads, the collection includes material to help understand the role trains have played – and continue to play.

Finally, the collection helps to document local manufacturing, the development of the fish hatchery, construction of the first dam, and the development of other major community industries and landmarks. In short, the collection provides a broad look at the

history and development of Mammoth Spring and the surrounding region. It is a welcome addition to our collections, and should prove useful for local and regional historical research.

## Meet Our Staff



This month we welcome a new staff member, Darren Bell, to our team. Darren works as an Archival Technician in the Imaging and Preservation section. Darren comes to us from Missouri where he graduated with a Masters degree in public history from Southeast Missouri State University. He has a background in archives having served in the Southeast Missouri State University Special Collections and Archives as an assistant to Dr. Lisa Speer.

Darren has been involved in restoration and preservation of properties for a few years. His interest in preservation began when he realized how cities with blighted areas could revitalize those areas using preservation. Darren learned how valuable preservation could be while taking a class on preservation at Southeast Missouri State University. The class project was to get a property onto the

National Register of Historic Places. The class chose an 1892 Queen Anne style home in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. "The house was in horrible condition and the owner couldn't afford to tear it down. But it was a beautiful and historic house. It made sense to try to save it," he remembers. "The process of naming it to the National Register was certainly a long process — it took two years to get it listed — but certainly worth it if it saves a historic home and helps to reinvigorate a community," he asserts.

Among Darren's many responsibilities at the AHC, he is in charge of preparing the newspapers for filming. He irons the newspapers and removes any labels that might have been placed on them. Then he films them. Although Darren is behind the scenes, his duties are certainly some of the most important to the preservation of Arkansas's history.

## Black History Commission News



Earlier this year the Black History Commission of Arkansas funded an application to the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant program to help support the Arkansas Black History Quiz Bowl. The Quiz Bowl is an educational tool used to heighten the appreciation and awareness of the contributions of African Americans in the development of world history and culture. The mission of the Quiz Bowl is to encourage students to study African American history. Along with encouraging friendly educational competition among students, the Quiz Bowl seeks to recognize students who demonstrate knowledge and recall of African American history and to educate students in the history of Arkansas

Black history makers. This year event was held at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. Teams from Arkadelphia, Dumas, Jacksonville, Little Rock, North Little Rock and Texarkana competed. Frank Bateman, the Projector Director, says they have been doing this for nine years and each year the program gets better and better.

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.

## 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



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST  
IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION  
AND STATE ARCHIVES

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CLOSED STATE HOLIDAYS

## From the Director



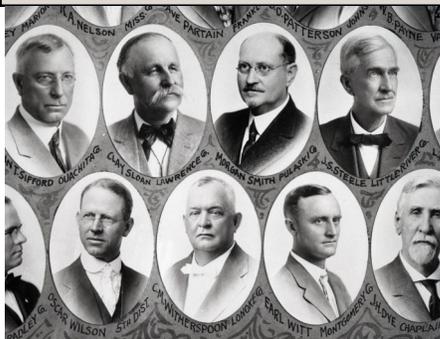
During this month of giving thanks, I'd like to bring to the attention of our readers two resources I'm grateful we are able to make available to you — and I encourage you to take advantage of them if you can!

The Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant program, administered by the Black History Commission of Arkansas, was fortunate to receive funding during the 2014 fiscal session. Between now and June 30, 2015, the BHCA has funds available for projects that promote, preserve, and disseminate Arkansas's African American history. Typically, the maximum amount awarded for a grant is \$3500. The guidelines and application forms have been revised, and are available on the Arkansas History Commission website at: <http://www.ark-ives.com/abhac/sykes.aspx>. On January 10 and March 14, the staff of the Arkansas History Commission and the BHCA will hold workshops for prospective grant applicants. While workshop attendance is not a pre-requisite for submitting a grant, prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop since the guidelines have changed. In the 15 years of the Sykes program's existence, the BHCA has awarded 90 grants totaling over \$250,000 in awards. A select list of the types of [projects funded](#) through this program is available on the BHCA webpage. To learn more information about the program, contact [Tatyana Oyinloye](#), African American History Program Coordinator at 501-682-6892.

Another AHC resource of which you may be unaware is our collection of "reject materials." These are primarily gift books received as part of transfers and donations and not added to our permanent collection because we already have multiple copies. The list of reject materials is topically diverse, and includes many genealogy and Arkansas history (state and local) titles. We are not able to transfer titles from our reject book list to individuals, but if your organizational or institutional library is interested in learning more about these materials and what might be available, please contact me at: [lisa.speer@arkansas.gov](mailto:lisa.speer@arkansas.gov) or 501-682-6901.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving! — Dr. Lisa K. Speer

## News from NEARA



Composite from the 1918 Constitutional Convention featuring Clay Sloan, top, second from left.

January 15, 2015, marks the bicentennial of the creation of Lawrence County, which historically encompassed 46 counties between Northern Arkansas and Southern Missouri. As we look forward to this celebration, we are once again excited to receive submissions for the NEARA Award.

The NEARA Award celebrates 200 years of vibrant history of Lawrence County and was endowed by the family of

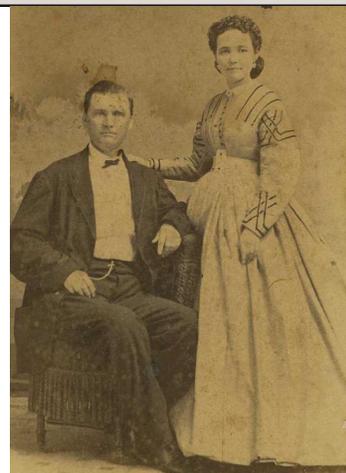
Eugene Sloan. Sloan was born in Powhatan on September 15, 1892, and attended the Powhatan Male and Female Academy, located adjacent to NEARA. Later, he attended Arkansas College and Vanderbilt University before embarking on a successful legal career in Jonesboro where he died in 1981. Sloan's father, Clay Sloan, served in a variety of public offices, including the state House and Senate. Perhaps inspired by his family's time and influence in the region, Eugene Sloan had a deep appreciation for the importance of preserving the records that tell so much of the story of those early years.

We encourage everyone to submit papers focusing on Lawrence County history, particularly the territorial period (1815-1835). NEARA collections include county records dating to the 1815 creation of Lawrence County by the Missouri Territorial Assembly. The use of primary source documents from NEARA is a criteria for submission. The winner of the bicentennial year NEARA award will be presented at the Arkansas Historical Association 2015 April conference in West Memphis and given \$1000.

For details on submission (e.g., number of copies, how to submit), visit the website of the [Arkansas Historical Association](#).

## News from SARA

The Nan Brown Collection is one of the gems at SARA. Recently retired AHC conservator Jane Thompson and her staff of interns lovingly boxed this remarkable collection related to the Conway and Bradley families of southwest Arkansas. In this photo are William Crabtree Bradley and his wife Frances Amanda.



The son of Davidson Bradley (1802-1837) and Eliza Crabtree, W. C. Bradley grew up in Hempstead County near Columbus. Born in 1831, he was orphaned early and raised by a Crabtree uncle. As a young man he moved to Lafayette County, possibly to assist his cousin Mary Jane Bradley Conway (1809-1878). The recent widow of James Sevier Conway (1796-1855), first governor of Arkansas, Mary Jane had been left with children and grandchildren to raise and large land interests to manage.

On March 17, 1856, W. C. Bradley married Mary Jane's fourth daughter Frances Amanda Conway. They spent the rest of their lives in Lafayette County. Bradley had farming interests and operated a cotton gin and steam corn mill at Walnut Hill near the site of Governor Conway's home. When the Louisiana and Arkansas railroad came through the region in 1888, it passed two miles east of Walnut Hill, so a new town site was established. It was named "Bradley" for William Crabtree Bradley.

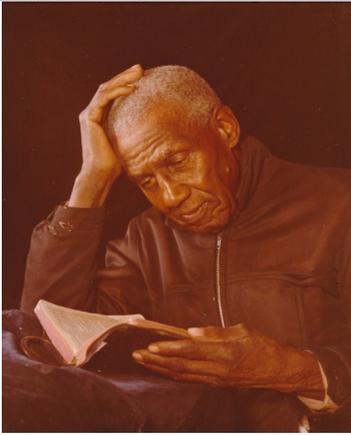
Frances Amanda, who suffered from poor health, died in 1906. W. C. lived until 1917. The couple had had no children. W. C. was cared for in his declining years by his Bradley nephews, sons of his younger brother John N. Bradley (1833-1899). W. C. and Frances Amanda are buried with other family members in the Conway Cemetery, now an Arkansas state park, near Walnut Hill on the edge of the Red River Valley.

## Staff Picks

This month we feature the choice of Archival Manager of NEARA Dr. Lisa Perry, the Tom McDonald Photography Collection.

Who was Tom McDonald? He was a photographer whose studio was in Jonesboro. He had a long career. His business was open for over fifty years. He photographed weddings and shot portraits in his studio. Even now, he is only semi retired.

How big is this collection? It is pretty massive. Since he was in business for so many years, he amassed a huge collection. There are 139 boxes full of negatives. Luckily for us, he was meticulous in making sure that the negatives were searchable. He created a very useful index of the collection, which really comes in



McDonald's photograph of Rufus Lane reading his Bible is one of Dr. Perry's favorites in the collection

handy when trying to search through such a huge collection. It was organized chronologically and in alphabetical order, which helps make searching through the collection very easy.

Have patrons been using this collection very often and how have they been using it? As you know, Arkansas is often prone to tornadoes and many victims lose their personal photographs in the damage. If they had studio pictures made with Mr. McDonald, they know that they can get those replaced since he kept the negatives. Even recently, Mr. McDonald has come in to NEARA to look for negatives in order to reproduce an image for clients. This makes this collection valuable beyond the historical value. It is nice that this collection can help people heal from tragedy.

In what other ways might patrons use the collection? I think patrons researching politics in northeastern Arkansas might find the collection useful. Mr. McDonald photographed many prominent politicians of the region.

## New at the AHC

### October Donations and Accessions

#### AHC

*Job Descriptions and Classification of Occupations: State of Arkansas, Works Progress Administration*  
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism: Campaign for Amendment Two Papers, 1996, Supplement  
*Forrest Park Celebrates 100 Years: A Century of Serving Children*, Photographs 8 CDs

#### SARA

*Personnel Missing from Arkansas in the Korean War* from Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, typescript and CD.  
Hope/Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce financial records and correspondence for 1998. 0.8 cu. ft.

#### NEARA

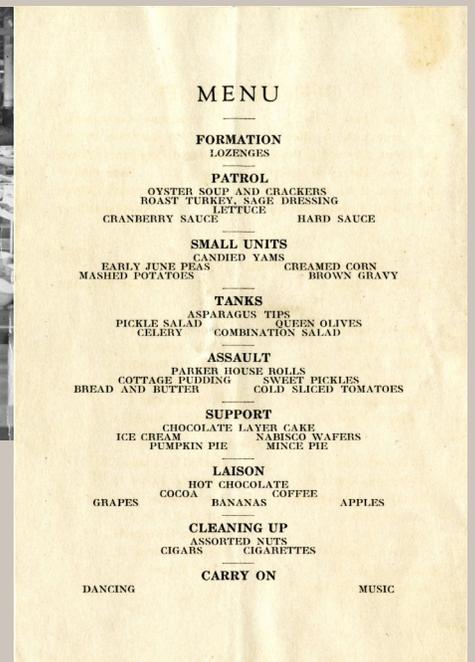
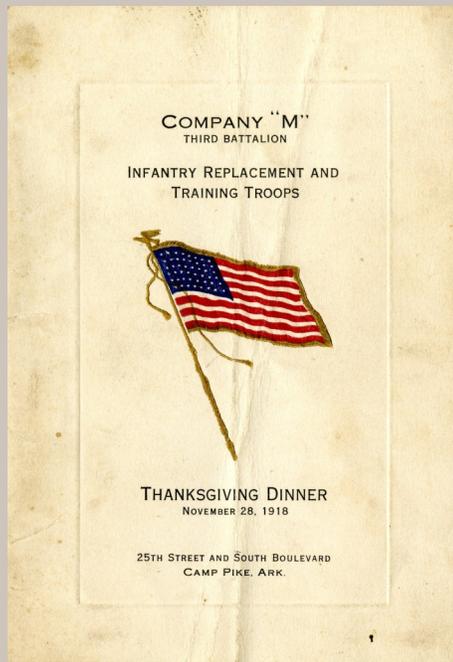
Lawrence County records from Lloyd Clark/LCHS. 0.2 cu. ft.

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 1918, the soldiers training at Camp Pike near North Little Rock for the First World War enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner. Below is the menu for the dinner.*

*The Arkansas History Commission wishes all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!*



Our offices will be closed  
November 27-30 for the holiday