



# ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION NEWS ARKANSAS'S STATE ARCHIVES

ISSUE 21

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

## BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

## *AHC Looks to Future, Moves Forward with Initiatives*

**November 28—30**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
AHC Office & Regional Archives  
Closed

**Through November 26**  
"Fought in Earnest" exhibit  
Hendrix College  
Conway

**December 2—20**  
"Fought in Earnest" exhibit  
Conway Junior High School  
Conway

**December 12**  
Meeting  
Arkansas History Commission  
AHC Conference Room  
Little Rock

**December 24-25**  
Christmas Holiday  
AHC Office & Regional Archives  
Closed

**January 1**  
New Year's Day Holiday  
AHC Office and Regional  
Archives  
Closed

As this year draws to a close, the Arkansas History Commission anticipates a number of changes in 2014. This fall, the staff at commission have been involved in three initiatives aimed at expanding access to our holdings. The initiatives – Collections, Digitization, and Education and Outreach – have in-house planning teams, which have been hard at work for the past few months.

The Collections Initiative is focused on creating an updated inventory of all the holdings at the AHC and the regional archives at NEARA and SARA, and establishing processing priorities for any uncatalogued material. Currently, each member of the staff is involved in either physically surveying the collections or entering data collected by the survey teams. This project will take some time, but will be worth the investment as more materials are made available to researchers through the Arkansas Records Catalog ([www.ark-cat.com](http://www.ark-cat.com)).

The Education and Outreach Initiative has several goals, including creating educational materials based on AHC holdings that can be readily incorporated into classrooms by Arkansas teachers; promoting statewide participation in Ark-Cat; and expanding the outreach and marketing efforts of the commission. This initiative involves three separate planning groups. Their work is already impacting the planning and execution of AHC-sponsored events, the development of our 2014 events calendar, and the creation of new resources and promotional tools, which you have seen if you have attended recent workshops.

While the Arkansas History Commission has had digital collections ("Documenting Arkansas") for some time, the Digitization Initiative is focused on developing guidelines for the selection of material that will be digitized in the future from our vast holdings. Look for changes to come to the AHC's current digital collections site (content and design) in 2014!

The activities of the initiatives are complementary and overlapping. "If our planning process works as it should," said AHC Director Speer, "each of these initiatives will support one another and help us meet the objectives of making more material available to a wider audience."

*Collections*

*Digitization*

*Education and Outreach*

## *Name Our Newsletter - Win a Behind the Scenes Tour!*

We continue to accept entries for our Name This Newsletter contest. Entries should be short, memorable, and advance the mission of the Commission, which is established by legislation and includes collecting material bearing on Arkansas history, copying and editing official records and other historical materials, encouraging historical work and research, and performing other work in relation to Arkansas history.

Entries can be submitted three ways. You may email your entry to [brian.irby@arkansas.gov](mailto:brian.irby@arkansas.gov) – be sure to include "Newsletter Contest" in the subject line of your email. You can also mail your entry to the Arkansas History Commission at One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201; or you may drop off your submission in person at the front desk of our Little Rock research room. Entries must be postmarked or time-stamped by 11:59 p.m., February 15, 2014, to be considered. Multiple entries are welcomed and encouraged, but please submit them individually. With all entries, please provide us with a way to contact you in the event you are a contest winner. The grand prize winner will be announced in the March 2014 edition of the newsletter and will receive a behind the scenes tour and copies of *Documenting Arkansas* and *Traveled Through a Fine Country: The Journal of Captain Henry Brockman*. First and second runners-up will receive their choice of either of these two publications. Unleash the creative spirit that lies within and send in your suggestions — you might win a prize!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU FROM ALL OF US  
AT THE  
ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION!



## Where we've been...



Commissioners from the Black History Commission of Arkansas plan upcoming events in their quarterly meeting on November 14.



Staff members Mary Dunn and Tatyana Oyinloye greet teachers at the Arkansas Curriculum Conference on October 31.



## 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

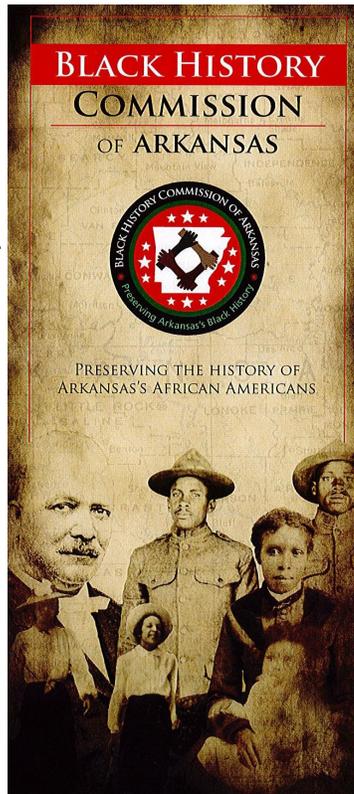
Mr. Marion Butler	Sherwood
Ms. Carla Coleman	Little Rock
Rev. Barry Dobson	El Dorado
Ms. Joyce Gibson	Prescott
Dr. John W. Graves	Arkadelphia
Mr. Myron Jackson	Little Rock
Mr. James Lawson	Jacksonville

## Black History Commission News

On Thursday night, December 5, at 6:00 p.m., the Association for Gravestone Studies will present Oakley Certificate of Merit Awards to four Arkansas residents whose work has furthered the AGS mission to foster appreciation of the cultural significance of gravestones and burying grounds through their study and preservation. Carla Coleman, the chairperson for the Black History Commission, is one of the four recipients for this award. The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission congratulate Coleman on this well-deserved recognition.

At the November BHCA meeting the commissioners approved a new brochure that features the new logo. We once again want to thank Commissioner Myron Jackson and The Design Group for their work on the new brochure.

Commissioner Joyce Gibson is currently working on two projects in the Prescott area on love letters exchanged by African Americans during WWII and on the Triple Nickel Paratroopers. The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, or "Triple Nickels," succeeded in becoming the nation's first all-Black parachute infantry test platoon, company, and battalion.



Arkansas  
Records Catalog  
ark-cat.com



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

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[WWW.ARK-IVES.COM](http://WWW.ARK-IVES.COM)

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

## From the Director



On December 3, I'll celebrate six months as Director of the Arkansas History Commission. It's hard to believe that half a year has gone by already. I don't have a lot of space in this month's newsletter – that's a good thing – it means there's a lot going on here. In the space I have, I wanted to thank those who have gone above and beyond in welcoming me to Commission and back to Arkansas. I am so fortunate to have two great groups of commissioners with whom to work. The members of the Arkansas History Commission and the Black History Commission of Arkansas are dedicated to their work. I am grateful for their leadership, direction and support. The staff at the commission and the regional archives make coming to work every day a delight. Not only are they some of the nicest people with whom I've ever worked, but they've eagerly embraced the various new initiatives we've started this year and are moving them forward in a steady and thoughtful fashion.

I'm also very appreciative to those organizations and individuals that have reached out to me and offered assistance, friendship and opportunities for collaboration. Recognizing people and entities by name is a risky thing, but I want to say how grateful I am to the folks at the Arkansas Genealogical Society, the Arkansas Studies Institute, the Arkansas Humanities Council, the Departments of History at the University of Arkansas, and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Special Collections at the University of Arkansas, the Washington County Historical Society, and the Arkansas Archeological Society for making me welcome at some very lovely events. There are many others who have sent emails and letters or dropped by to welcome me, and I appreciate each one of you.

Not the least of the things for which I am grateful is the opportunity to be a part of Parks and Tourism -- a department that feels more like a big family -- and for the mentorship of Executive Director Richard Davies.

I really can't wait to see what the next six months hold!

## News from NEARA

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of escorting a group of people from Sharp County to visit the "ghost town" of Rush, just south of Yellville. Our purpose in the trip was two-fold. The first was to allow us the opportunity to discuss the various types of mining that have taken place in Arkansas over the past two centuries. The second was to visit the remains of a historical mining operation that played a significant role in both Arkansas's history and that of our country during World War I. Rush began as a zinc mining operation, later became a state park, and finally joined the National Park Service as part of the Buffalo National River. Today, all that remains are a few buildings and foundations, a smelter, and gated mine entries that serve as breeding areas for bats.



Mineral extraction in Arkansas has a rich history. Coal to zinc, diamonds to lead, the natural resources of this state are a veritable treasure. The holdings of the Arkansas History Commission, including all three archives, provide a wealth of information on all these. Photographs, business records, government maps and reports we hold tell the stories of mineral extraction that has extended into all corners of our state. For those interested in economic history, commerce, or just digging for diamonds in the Natural State, we have the resources to help.

## News from SARA

This photo of a young lady is from the Nan Brown Collection at SARA. The lady is Caroline "Carrie" Turner, the daughter of Ann Jane Conway and John Sugars Turner of Spring Hill, Arkansas. Carrie was born about 1865 and was a granddaughter of James Sevier Conway, the first governor of Arkansas. She grew up in Spring Hill.



When Carrie was in her thirties, she decided to pursue nursing as a career, an unusual choice for her time and place. She attended the nursing course at Charity Hospital in Fort Smith and graduated in early March 1898. She and Miss Bonham, the matron in the nursing program, were cited for their brave work in the days after the tornado of January 11, 1898, that struck Fort Smith. After graduation, Carrie moved to Little Rock to practice her profession.

On November 22, 1898, Carrie married H. V. Robson of Spring Hill. Over the years, they moved around but did return to southwest Arkansas. Carrie died in Hope on May 20, 1932, and was buried at Washington with her husband and other relatives. Nan Brown, her only daughter, donated this wonderful collection to SARA in 1979.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

NOVEMBER 28-30

DECEMBER 24-25

JANUARY 1



## New at the AHC

### November contributions:

#### AHC accessions

Craig O'Neill Family Research Material (0.5 cubic feet)  
Register of Legal Voters, Arkansas (8 archival boxes)  
World War II ration book  
"Root Hog or Die" Camp Nelson Version  
50th Anniversary of the Dedication of Greers Ferry Dam  
The Official Arkansas Waltz  
Aesthetic Club History, 1983 – 2003  
Kinnon Family of Little Rock photographs  
ADPT "Seedy Tick" (1 drawing)  
Rock Island Railroad Employees' Reunion, booklet  
Gary Clements collection

#### SARA accessions

Mark Keith collection (1.25 cubic feet)

#### NEARA accessions

4-H Girls House (0.5 cubic feet)

## The AHC Team

The Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives branch serves the unique purpose of housing and preserving historical documents particular to the region. Serving as manager since the branch opened in 2011 is Dr. Lisa Perry. Born and raised in West Virginia, she was immersed in the economy and culture of Appalachia. In fact, her familial roots connect to one of the most infamous family feuds in history, the feud between the Hatfields and McCoys. "Devil" Anse Hatfield was her great-great uncle. She studied history and mining engineering before relocating to Trumann, Arkansas, where she served as engineering manager at Baldwin Piano. With an interest in the history of economic development, she completed a Ph.D. in Heritage Studies at the Arkansas State University at Jonesboro in 2011.

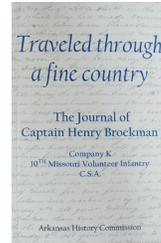
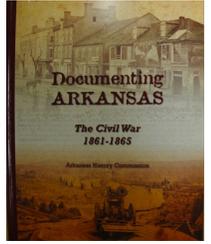


Looking ahead, Dr. Perry hopes that NEARA will become the premiere research institution for those seeking to study and understand northeast Arkansas. "We have so many interesting documents," she reflects. "We have the records for the territorial courts going back to 1815. Many of the founding fathers of our state had some roots in this area. Numerous records in our collections detail the economic development of the northeastern part of the state." The history of economic development in northeastern Arkansas is most interesting to her. "It is interesting how something as simple as the salt trade can actually be very complex. Much of the early salt traded in this area was imported from Missouri and, later, from the Kanawha River Valley in what is now West Virginia. The travel alone could take weeks, not to mention just the logistics of transporting it. And we have the documentation of many of the transactions that made the trade work." As the region continues to develop in interesting ways, we can be sure that Dr. Perry will continue to preserve and document these changes for the years to come.

## AHC Publications

The Arkansas History Commission has two publications for sale.

*Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War 1861-1865* contains color images of documents taken from the AHC holdings. (\$29 plus \$5 shipping)

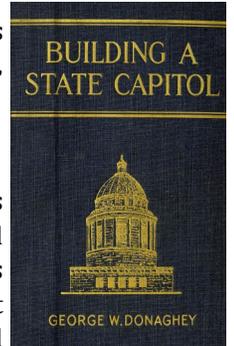


*The Journal of Captain Henry Brockman* is a transcript of the original journal. Brockman spent most of the war fighting in Arkansas. (\$15 plus \$2 shipping)

They are great gifts for the holidays! For more information and order forms click [here](#).

## Staff Picks

This month we feature Ann Clements's choice, George W. Donaghey's book, *Building a State Capitol*.



*Why did you choose this?*

"I spent several years of my career as Capitol Historian, so it is a personal favorite of mine. I've probably read this book cover to cover several times. It covers a lot of the controversy involved in the twenty plus year struggle to build the Capitol."

*Are there other related materials in our collection?* "Donaghey wrote an autobiography as well which also gave an account of his career. Cal Ledbetter also wrote an excellent biography of the governor, *Carpenter from Conway*."

*Is there anything in this book you found most interesting?* "You get Donaghey's side to the story. When I worked as Capitol Historian, I also studied the architect's correspondence in New York. What was interesting was that often the facts were slightly different in Donaghey's account than they were in the records from the architect. After all, Donaghey was defending his reputation, so of course he is going to show himself in the best light."

**CALL FOR ENTRIES!  
NEARA AWARD  
\$1,000 CASH PRIZE**

**DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT LISA PERRY**

**[lisa.perry@arkansas.gov](mailto:lisa.perry@arkansas.gov)**