



THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

OCTOBER 2014

The AHC Bids Farewell to Jane Thompson

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!

September 18—October 13
"Fought in Earnest"
Exhibit
Southern Arkansas University
Magnolia, Arkansas

October 17-31
"Fought in Earnest"
Exhibit
Dryer Hall
Arkansas State University
Mountain Home

October 18
Murder, Mayhem and Lies:
Arkansas's Historical Cold Cases
SARA Symposium
Historic Washington State Park

October is National Archives Month!

At the end of October we will bid farewell to one of our beloved staff members, Jane Thompson, as she retires and starts the next chapter of her life. Jane has been our conservator at the AHC since 2006. Her extensive knowledge of conservation has been valuable to our mission of preserving our state's history. Many of our readers will recognize her for her monthly column in this newsletter offering conservation advice.

Although she cringes when someone suggests that she's had a distinguished career of public service, in her case it is the truth. Her fondest memories of her service to the community have always revolved around books and reading. She was heavily involved in the development of the Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library and the launching of the "If All Arkansas Read the Same Book" program. "I was thrilled toward the end of my career at the Arkansas State Library that the Center was awarded prestigious first round funding by the National Endowment for the Arts for the Big Read, a national program. It was a highly competitive grant process," she remembers. "It was so exciting to see the program succeed and continue." Building cooperative programs with libraries and other organizations across the state also brought Jane a great deal of gratification.

In her time at the AHC, Jane has been privileged to work with many important documents. Among her favorites have been the original blueprints of Hot Springs' Arlington Hotel and a land grant signed by President Thomas Jefferson. While these documents are important to the history of our state and nation, Jane reserves her fondest remembrance for a book that she worked with called *The Persian Pearl*. "I was always interested in the arts and crafts movement, which was a revival of interest and appreciation in things that were handmade, so this book was of great interest to me," she said. The book was made with handmade paper, using block printing techniques and was signed by renowned attorney Clarence Darrow.

Now that she is approaching retirement, it seems that Jane has no desire to rest at home. "I'm not finished being a librarian yet," she contends. She plans to volunteer at libraries and, as anyone who visits her lab knows and sees her stacks of books, she has a lot of reading to do. She plans to stay active in the community, perhaps attend some continuing education programs. Does retirement worry her? She does not seem concerned about filling up her time, although she will collect her first Social Security check on November 1. "Do you want to feel elderly? Try that on for size!" she quips. But, it is clear that she will not let much grass grow beneath her feet.

Dr. Lisa Speer, Director of the AHC, says that it will be hard to contemplate this agency without Jane. "We will be hard-pressed to find a successor to fill the role of Conservator at the Arkansas History Commission who brings as much talent and skill to the position as Jane Thompson," says Dr. Speer. "Jane has also been an excellent mentor to numerous students who have interned in the AHC's Conservation Lab. I doubt she realizes the influence she has had on cultivating young talent and shaping the career choices of would-be conservators who have interned under her watchful eyes." When she leaves us on October 31, she will leave a void that will not be easily filled.

AHC and SARA Challenges You to Help Solve a Mystery!

The Arkansas History Commission and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) will host their annual history symposium on Saturday, October 18 from 9 a.m. until noon at the 1914 Schoolhouse at Historic Washington State Park in Washington. The symposium's theme, "Murder, Mayhem and Lies: Investigating Some of Arkansas's Historical Cold Cases," will feature speakers Brian Irby, Amanda Paige and Peggy Lloyd. Topics will include "On the Hunt of the Texarkana Moonlight Phantom", a look into the unsolved 1946 serial killings in Texarkana; "E.A. Hitchcock Investigates: The Case of the Missing Chickasaw Money", which will explore the investigation into the defrauding of the Chickasaw nation during their removal to Oklahoma during the 1830s; and "The Maxwell Case", the 1949 court case, *State of Arkansas v. Herman Maxwell*, appealed to the Supreme Court and ending in an execution, which contributed to the early stirrings of the Civil Rights movement at Hope.



MURDER, MAYHEM, & LIES:
Investigating Some of Arkansas's Historical Cold Cases
Free History Symposium!
Saturday, October 18th, 9am-12pm
at Historic Washington State Park
Register Today!

Conservation Corner



Mid-century scrapbooks often have a sticky base paper with a clear sheet of protective film that rests atop the page. That was a great idea at the time for quick and efficient scrapbooking. Fifty years later, we find photos and memorabilia stuck to the adhesive-treated base stock, or the protective film adhered to the scrapbook items (particularly photographs). To free photos from these scrapbooks, first try running dental floss between the photo and substance to which it's stuck. If this doesn't free the photo, place a test page from the scrapbook in the freezer overnight to embrittle the

adhesive. Possibly by freezing the adhesive, the photograph will release. If freezing doesn't work, then the best option is to scan or re-photograph each page of the scrapbook "as is."

Many turn-of-the-century scrapbooks are built on acidic paper that has deteriorated. Often, photos simply lift free of dried glue. If a photo is firmly adhered to its page, paper can be scraped away from a photograph by scraping the paper from the back. Moving forward, there are two options: (1) re-create the original scrapbook by mounting the photos onto new backing paper that's suitable for the long haul, or (2) place the original page of the scrapbook in a polyester sleeve protector, and house in a three-ring binder or other means of maintaining the compilation. Of course, it's an option to free the scrapbook items from their pages and save as individual items.

Another perfectly acceptable option for conserving a scrapbook (or any item) is to do nothing. Housing a scrapbook, document, or photograph out of the sunlight and in a location with good environmental controls sometimes is the best conservation decision you can make.

Pictured are rows of scrapbooks from the collection of the Arkansas History Commission. Some scrapbooks at AHC are microfilmed and in many instances, custom rare book boxes are built to the exact dimensions of the scrapbooks to keep them intact and mitigate physical damage.

Black History Commission News



The South Sebastian County Historical Society is excited about getting started on a new project recently funded by the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant Program. They will use the grant money to preserve the Norwood Family Cemetery, an African American cemetery in Greenwood.

The SSCHS will recognize and honor the Norwood Family, which was prominent in the African American community, through a historical interpretation of their lives. The grant will fund a number of improvement

projects in the cemetery including installation of fencing and a memorial marker. The Norwood Family Cemetery is located on the old homestead of Jim and Fannie Norwood, and contains approximately 82 marked graves of descendants and many more unmarked graves.

Donna Goldstein, project director and member of the SSCHS explains why they chose this particular Project: "Jim and Fannie Norwood were valued and loved members of the community. Their former home site and the cemetery where many of their family and the black community were buried had been overtaken by vines and brush. Sue and Otis Edwards, members of the South Sebastian County Historical Society, launched into an intensive clean-up of the cemetery with the assistance of the property owners' family, descendant Herb Norwood, and other society and community members, as a means of demonstrating their affection and respect for the Norwood family and their contributions to Greenwood."

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2015 and all historical information collected in the project on the Norwood family and the cemetery will be housed at the AHC.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

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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
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From the Director



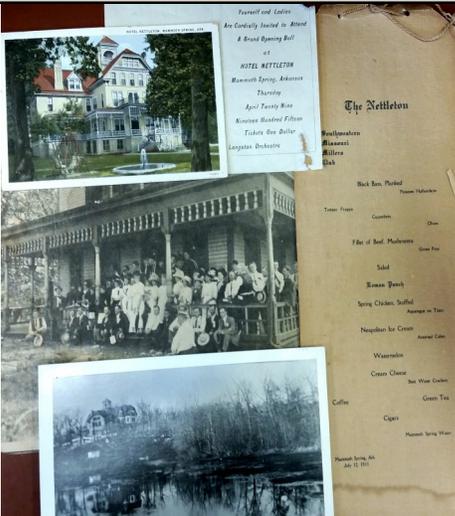
On October 6, I appeared before the Legislative Subcommittee on Administrative Rules and Regulations to present the AHC's proposed rule changes to three of our policy documents – our general rules, our services and fees, and the guidelines for the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant program. This brings the History Commission one step closer to bringing to a close a process that started in March – seven months ago. By November 1, final copies of the revised rules will be filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, and will go into effect on December 1, 2014. Patrons of the AHC can expect some exciting changes as a result of these policy revisions!

By the beginning of the new year, the AHC will have added new duplication services to the retinue of researcher services we currently provide. I am not revealing more here – you will have to look for additional information coming in the January newsletter and on our website and Facebook page – but we're adding more options for acquiring images and documents in both traditional and digital formats. We're also attempting to simplify and streamline our ordering process by offering one price (and one form) for copying microfilm, paper records and books. Oversize items and photographs will continue to have separate pricing structures. Researchers hopefully will be pleasantly surprised by the number of new options for acquiring reproductions of material

from the collection, as well as by reduced prices on many of the existing copying services.

As part of our rule revision process, we'll be making some changes in our research room to enhance the security and longevity of the historically significant materials we are charged with housing and protecting on behalf of the state of Arkansas. So we ask for your cooperation and patience as we implement these changes and as our staff adjusts to new processes and procedures. We want to make your research visit as productive as we can, while ensuring that the archival materials in our care are here for many generations to come. Thank you for working with us as we make these changes. I would invite you to send feedback – good or bad – to me at lisa.speer@arkansas.gov, as you have a chance to come in and experience these updates for yourself. I look forward to hearing from you! — Dr. Lisa K. Speer

News from NEARA



The town of Mammoth Spring grew up around the large natural spring which supplied a constant, reliable stream of fresh water. In 1881, the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railroad line announced their intention to run the Springfield, MO to Memphis, TN track right by Mammoth Spring. It took several years, but by 1886 the track was completed and a new train depot was erected just outside of the main town.

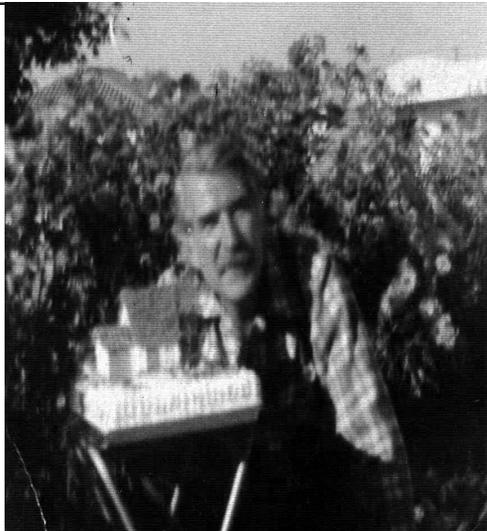
With Mammoth Spring easily accessible by train, businesses marketed the town as an ideal

summer getaway. Napoleon Hill was a banker and industrialist from Memphis who saw the potential of investing in Mammoth Spring. He funded the building of the Nettleton Hotel which was completed in 1899. Run by the Nettleton family, the Hotel had a stunning view overlooking the Spring River and provided upscale accommodations. The building was destroyed by fire November 30, 1932 but while there it operated alongside two other rival family hotels: the Culp Hotel and the Charlton Hotel.

The Nettleton Hotel was a beautiful Victorian style building with yellow siding, red roofing, white trim, and two large porches on the front and back of the house. A fountain decorated the front lawn with a swing next to it. The Nettleton hosted conferences, newspaper conventions, balls, parties, and guests for the Blue & Gray Reunion of Civil War veterans. It was a popular gathering point for the town and tourists alike. You can see more pictures and news articles regarding the Nettleton Hotel and Mammoth Spring at NEARA.

News from SARA

The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives recently received a collection of family history materials on the Hubbard family who had lived in Georgia and Mississippi and ultimately settled in Sevier County, Arkansas, probably after 1870. The donor noted that one member of the family was a well-known actor who had had a career in movies and television.



A movie actor from Southwest Arkansas? His birth name was Treva Gaston Hubbard, born on November 19, 1902, in Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas. He had, however, taken the stage name "Trevor Gaston Bardette." The name was not familiar, but a snapshot of the man taken on his 54th birthday in 1956 was instantly recognizable.

Though he had never achieved star status, Trevor Bardette had roles in dozens of films from 1937 into the late 1960s. He appeared in such blockbusters as *Gone with the Wind*, *The Grapes of Wrath* with Henry Fonda and *The Big Sleep* with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. He played a bouncer at a dance, sheriffs, marshals, mob leaders, villains and farmers. He also moved into television with a wide variety of roles in westerns (*Wagon Train*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Bonanza* and *Laramie*, among others), crime shows (*Perry Mason* and *The Untouchables*), comedies (*Andy Griffin* and *Gomer Pyle*) and even *Lassie* and *The Adventures of Superman*. After a long career, Bardette and his wife Dorothy retired to Arizona. He died in Pima County near Tucson on November 15, 1977.

Staff Picks

This month we feature the African American History Program Coordinator Tatyana Oyinloye and her pick a manuscript called "Across the Horizon".

What is this and why is it significant to Arkansas History? It is a manuscript we have in our collection full of stories, recipes, and photographs of

the black community in Grady, Arkansas, in the early 1930s. What makes this so unique is that there is so little information about black communities during this time period. It gives a real unique snapshot of this community.

Who collected and published this material? It was assembled by a white woman named Cornelia Kirkley Foster. She happened to feel very close to the black community in Grady. So, she took the time to assemble all of this material together. She sat with people and collected their stories and recipes. She photographed people in the community and wrote captions for the photographs. You would not expect such detail of this community during this time period. It is truly amazing.

What makes this book special to you? I have a lot of relatives in Grady. I would love to sit down with some of the older people in my family and see if they recognize any of the people photographed in this book. I think it would be really fun to see if I might be related to some of the people in this book.

Is there any part of the book that you found extraordinarily interesting? Absolutely. There is a recipe for fried chicken that I found interesting. The recipe prepares the chicken the exact same way I do it. So, there might be a tradition handed down over the years of cooking and you can see early examples of that.



New at the AHC

September Donations and Accessions

AHC

Arkansas Department of Labor Records, 3 cu. ft.
Hempstead-Riley Family Collection, 2 cu. ft.

SARA

Hubbard Family Papers, 0.25 cu. ft.
Hudson Collection, 0.25 cu. ft.
Rodgers and Barnes Family Collection, 0.25 cu. ft.
Map of Dardanelle, Arkansas, Oct. 1847
The Arkansas Archeologist, Vol. 53 (2014)
Sandyland Chronicle, Vol. 13, No. 10 (Oct. 2014)
Field Notes: Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society,
No. 380 (Sept./Oct. 2014)
Ouachita County Historical Quarterly, Vol. 46, No. 1 (Fall 2014)

NEARA

Lawrence County records, 0.4 cu. ft.
Sharp Citizen: 1974-1975
Bits of Bark from the Family Tree, Sept. 2014

We appreciate the generous support of our donors!

Meet Our Staff



This month we welcome a new staff member, Tim Schultz. Tim is our new supervisor for Imaging and Preservation, filling the role Ronnie Watts held so faithfully until his retirement earlier this year. While Tim knows he is filling some big shoes, he is confident in continuing the progress in the department Ronnie Watts had established in his long career at the AHC. He is bringing with him a long career of leadership and many new ideas for streamlining and improving the microphotography process.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Tim served our country in the Air Force and is a veteran of the Vietnam War era. While in Taiwan, he bought his first camera. After his honorable discharge his interest in photography continued to grow. He took classes at the Arkansas Arts Center and learned photograph and dark room techniques. While his new hobby required a lot of expensive equipment, Tim decided to take a leap of faith and start his own photography studio. Those in central Arkansas are probably familiar with his photography. He ran this studio for thirty years and photographed numerous weddings over this time. At the height of his practice, Tim was often photographing as many as five weddings in a single weekend. Ten years after he closed his business, he is still widely known and respected for his career in photography. "Even now people approach me often saying, 'You photographed my daughter's wedding or did my son's senior pictures,'" Tim says smiling. "It is very flattering that they remember."

In his spare time, Tim is quite busy. He has twenty acres at his home in Austin where he has raised horses and goats. He can also be found tinkering with his motorcycles. He is active in his church where he sings bass in the choir and has served as choir director.

We are lucky to have Tim join our team and look forward to his leadership over Imaging and Preservation.