



# THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Arkansas Unsolved Mysteries Take Center Stage at SARA Symposium

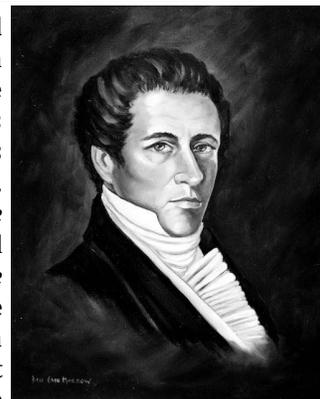
### BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU!

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

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

**October is National Archives Month!**

The Arkansas History Commission and the Southwest Regional Archives (SARA) will be hosting 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 L. 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*, concerning the 1949 court case, *Herman Maxwell v. State of Arkansas*, appealed to the Supreme Court and ending in an execution, which contributed to the early stirrings of the Civil Rights Movement at Hope.



Governor James Sevier Conway, a major figure in the mystery of the missing Chickasaw money.

The seminar is free but registration is required. Check-in will begin at 8:15 a.m. Teachers can earn up to three professional development hours through attendance. Registration is limited and deadline for registration will be Monday, Oct. 13. For more information about the symposium or to register, contact us at [history.commission@arkansas.gov](mailto:history.commission@arkansas.gov) or call us at 501-682-6900.

*We hope you will come join us as we explore some of Arkansas's most intriguing unsolved mysteries!*



## AHC Holds Joint Symposium with Sequoyah Center



Cherokee artist Roy Boney, Jr., engages audience members with his presentation on World War I Cherokee Code Talkers.

On September 13, the Arkansas History Commission and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) hosted a free half-day symposium on the UALR campus at Dickinson Hall. The symposium's theme, *The Great War: Researching World War I in Arkansas Archives*, featured four speakers all focusing on different aspects of World War I research, with a special emphasis on the role of Native Americans in the conflict.

Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., SNRC Director, presented a case study of Choctaws in World War I, based on research materials held at the SNRC. As a supplement to Dr. Littlefield's presentation, Cody Bell, a UALR Public History graduate student, presented his current work as an intern at the SNRC, focusing on the lives of two prominent Choctaw brothers who performed distinguished service in World War I. Amanda Paige, Archival Assistant

at the Arkansas History Commission, presented an overview of source materials available at the AHC and online for researching the war. The seminar concluded with a presentation by well-known Cherokee artist and language preservationist, Roy Boney, Jr., who discussed his work on Cherokee code talkers, sharing with audience members a sneak preview of his forthcoming graphic novel on the subject.

## Conservation Corner



This month's conservation note is an anti-conservation note, but it touches on a question that I'm asked frequently: "I have piles of linens, napkins, and tablecloths going back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. How can I preserve them?" Textile conservators suggest making certain they're clean. If they're not fragile or if the colors are stable, washing in Orvis, Photoflo, or other non-ionic detergent if necessary, then resting them in a bed of non-buffered tissue inside of a good box and putting them away.

I am not a textile conservator and I have a contrarian opinion. If you enjoy using family linens (here I am referencing sturdy white damasks, linens, and cottons), then use them and clean them as if they were contemporary textiles realizing that there *could* be a risk.

My mother boxed a bedspread crocheted by my grandmother and set it aside. Fifty years later, I found a mildewed, discolored but otherwise gorgeous bedspread worked in a common 1950s-era pattern in white cotton thread. Throwing caution to the winds, I washed the bedspread several times then dried and aired it. Today it's in daily use atop my grandmother's sleigh bed and is in perfect condition. Had I waited another 10 or 20 years, the bedspread would have been mildewed beyond recovery. Pictured here is a section of my grandmother Zdenka's amazing handiwork.

Moral: Please use your family linens freely and enjoy them if they speak to you, but please realize that in washing fragile fabrics or colored fabrics that might bleed, you may be taking a risk.

## Black History Commission News



The Black History Commission awarded three new grants in the last funding cycle of the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant program:

**Norwood Family Cemetery Project  
Lincoln High School Alumni Project  
Lincoln Echo Digital Archive**

Congratulations to the grant recipients on their awards. We commend them for their excellent work in preserving and promoting African American and Arkansas history!

The deadline for submitting applications to be considered during the next funding cycle is 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Applications can be mailed to the Arkansas History Commission at One Capitol Mall, 2B-215, Little Rock, AR 72201, or delivered in person. Applications should not be emailed unless you have received prior approval of Tatyana Oyinloye, African American History Program Coordinator. If you have questions about the program, please contact Tatyana Oyinloye, African American History Program Coordinator at 501.682.6892 or at [tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov](mailto:tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov). Please click on link below for application or go to our website at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com) and follow "About Us" to the Black History Commission of Arkansas page.

[http://www.ark-ives.com!/userfiles/pdfs/Sykes\\_Application\\_August2014.pdf](http://www.ark-ives.com!/userfiles/pdfs/Sykes_Application_August2014.pdf)

## KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

### Arkansas History Commission

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Dr. Ruth Hawkins	Jonesboro
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Arkansas Records Catalog

[ark-cat.com](http://ark-cat.com)



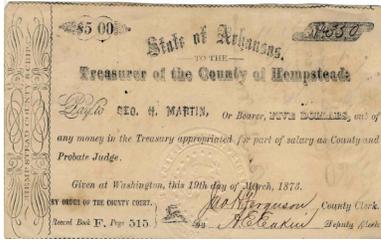
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## Staff Picks



This month we feature the Archival Manager of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Peggy Lloyd, and her pick of a Reconstruction era Hempstead County scrip.

What is this and why is it significant to Arkansas History? It is county scrip and in this document you can see a lot of the issues that the state faced during Reconstruction. It really demonstrates the upheaval of the Reconstruction period in Arkansas. The scrip was to pay County Judge George H. Martin in 1873. It seems pretty standard until you turn it over and see “Not paid for want of funds” on the back. It appears that there were people in county government who simply did not want to pay him. It really is indicative of the amount of turmoil that enveloped Arkansas at that time.

*Who was George H. Martin?* He was a former county official from Angelina County, Texas. At one point in his career he was tried for murder in Texas and acquitted. He was district clerk in the only county in Texas that opposed secession. After the war, violence broke out in Angelina County forcing Martin to flee with his family to Washington, Arkansas, where he embraced Republican politics, eventually becoming county judge. He was so supportive of Republican Governor Powell Clayton that he named one of his children after him. Martin lived in Washington until 1900 before moving to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he died the next year.

*It really is an interesting time. Do you have any suggestions of other documents that researchers might find to complement this document?* The *Arkansas Gazette* is full of examples of turmoil and violence that happened in the state. The thing for researchers to understand is that a lot of this material may not look important at first glance. It is crucial to sometimes read between the lines to get at the meaning of a document.

## New at the AHC

### August Donations and Accessions

#### AHC

Byrd Ross Collection – 2 cu. ft.  
Caroline Lester Genealogical Collection – 0.75 cu. ft.  
*Cherokee Intermarried White 1906, Vol. 1*, by Jeff Bowen  
*The Hobo's Trail: Through the Depression*, by Earnest L. Best  
*Harrison Helps*, by Ladies Aid Society, M.E. Church South  
*Jenkins' Ferry History and Family Descendants: Leola, Arkansas*, by Thomas L. Green

#### SARA

Muldrow Family photograph  
Hempstead County marriage records -.25 cu. ft.  
*Avery, Cole, Brown and May Families* by Anna L. Spencer.  
*Davis and Other Family Lines* by Anna L. Spencer.

#### NEARA

Mammoth Spring collection - 18 cu. ft.

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

## Meet Our Volunteers



Michael Klossner

There are many different projects available to those who might wish to help at the AHC. Two of our volunteers, John Tarbell and Michael Klossner, have been working on a couple of crucial projects that have greatly benefitted our researchers

**Michael Klossner** has been a public servant for almost a quarter of a century. Michael worked as a cataloguer at the Arkansas State Library for 23 years before retiring two years ago.

An avid film buff, Michael has authored two books on film, *The Europe of 1500-1814 in Films and Television* and *Prehistoric Humans in Film and Television*. Since his retirement, Michael has devoted more of his time to watching movies and television, approaching the medium both as a fan and as a scholar. He likes learning new things through movies, which is why he tends to enjoy seeing foreign movies more – he can learn so much about different cultures and societies through films produced by those cultures.

At the AHC, Michael has volunteered on the *In Remembrance* project, an online, searchable name index of Arkansas deaths between 1819-1920. Michael has found that his extensive cataloguing experience comes in handy with the project. “I’ve learned to make good decisions when cataloguing over the years,” he asserts. “In many ways *In Remembrance* has been like cataloguing. I’ve needed to adapt raw material from the cemetery books and adapted them to fit the rules of the project. This is what I did for years at the State Library.”

**John Tarbell** has been a fixture here at the AHC for many years. A history major in college, John has maintained his love for history, especially the military history of the Civil War, through the years. For ten years he took part in battle reenactments. Since retiring from AT&T, John has volunteered his time at the AHC looking into the military history of the state. Among the projects to which he has contributed are indexing Arkansas’s Confederate pensions, and an index of those who attended the 1911 Confederate reunion in Little Rock. Today, patrons can access these indices on the AHC’s [website](#) and can be thankful for John’s hard work in getting them online. Another project John in which John has been instrumental has been transcribing the Brockman diary published by the AHC in 2011 and available for sale [online](#) or by contacting the AHC at [state.archives@arkansas.org](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.org).



John Tarbell

The AHC has a wide variety of projects available for volunteers, even those who may need the flexibility to work from home! If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, or learning more about opportunities for volunteering to preserve and promote Arkansas’s rich history at the AHC, please contact us by calling 501-682-6900 or completing a [volunteer application](#) and submitting it to us in person, by mail or [email](#). We look forward to hearing from you!