

## Hempstead Collection Donated to Commission

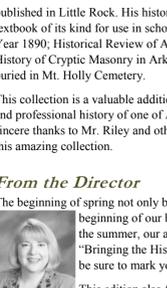
One of the more rewarding aspects of archival work is the thrill of new donations to the collections. Nelson Riley of Florida recently contacted the Commission about some family portraits and archival materials his family wanted to donate to the commission. Riley's great-grandfather was Fay Hempstead, noted poet, historian, and Mason.



*Fay Hempstead*

The collection contains three framed oil portraits, along with 5.5 cubic feet of letters, poems, Masonic papers and historical publications from the Hempstead estate. The portraits depict Samuel Hempstead, Fay's father, possibly painted by John Beale Bordley about 1840 and Fay Hempstead, painted by Adrian Brewer; while the third is an unknown Hempstead family member.

Fay Hempstead was born November 24, 1847 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Samuel Hutchinson Hempstead, an attorney and postmaster of Little Rock, and Elizabeth Rebecca Beall Hempstead. Fay attended St. John's College in Little Rock and studied law at the University of Virginia. Upon returning to Little Rock, he was a partner in the firm of George Gallagher and Robert Newton from 1869 to 1872. He married Gertrude Blair O'Neale of Charlottesville, Virginia, and they had seven children.



*Samuel Hutchinson Hempstead*

Hempstead was the Registrar of Bankruptcy for Arkansas from 1874-1881, when he was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas Freemasons. He spent the rest of his life in service to Freemasonry. Named poet laureate of Freemasonry in 1908, Hempstead joined the honored ranks of the only two other poets to hold this position, Robert Burns of Scotland and Robert Morris of Kentucky.

His first volume of poems was *Random Arrows*, published in 1878. Over the next fifty years, several additional collections were published in Little Rock. His historical writings include *A School History of Arkansas*, the first textbook of its kind for use in schools; *A Pictorial History of Arkansas: From Earliest Times to the Year 1890*; *Historical Review of Arkansas: Its Commerce, Industry, and Modern Affairs*; and *A History of Cryptic Masonry in Arkansas*. Hempstead died in Little Rock on April 24, 1934 and is buried in Mt. Holly Cemetery.

This collection is a valuable addition to the History Commission's holdings, reflecting the personal and professional history of one of Arkansas's prominent citizens of the early twentieth century. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Riley and other Hempstead family members for entrusting the Commission with this amazing collection.

## From the Director

The beginning of spring not only brings warmer weather and beautiful budding flowers, it marks the beginning of our busy outreach season at the History Commission. From now through the summer, our activities will greatly increase as we travel the state. Watch the "Bringing the History Commission to You" feature for all the upcoming events and be sure to mark your calendars for events in your area!

This edition also features the acquisition of the Fay Hempstead collections, a call for summer interns at all of our locations, new Civil War publications, AAS digging up history at SARA, our upcoming workshops, and a new recurring feature that highlights our collections in context with statewide events during each month.

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Mary McDonald as she retires from the History Commission. You can read all about Mary's service to the state and the Commission below. I wish her the best as she enters this new phase and we will certainly miss her sweet spirit and hard work!

Please join me in welcoming our newest Commissioner - Robert McCarley of Little Rock. Mr. McCarley replaces Carl Barger of Conway. My thanks to Mr. Barger for his fourteen years of service on the Commission and his strong commitment to improving service to our patrons. He was instrumental in increasing the number of visitor parking spaces making access to the Commission much easier for researchers.

Your positive response to this newsletter is much appreciated! Help us build our contact list by forwarding this to your friends. They can subscribe by clicking the link at the bottom of the newsletter. As always, you may contact me at [wendy.richter@arkansas.gov](mailto:wendy.richter@arkansas.gov) with your suggestions for news you would like to read. Enjoy!

## News from NEARA

Of all of NEARA's primary source documents, by far the largest is the collection of Lawrence County records. Not as it exists today—but Lawrence County as it originated in 1815 as part of the Missouri Territory.

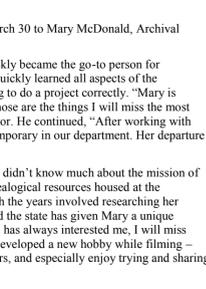
Nearly thirty counties in Arkansas, and another sixteen in Missouri, were at one time included in that original boundary. The upcoming bicentennial of the creation of Lawrence County is both a cause for research and for exploration of life in the early territory.

Including a recent donation from the Lawrence County Historical Society, we have hundreds of cubic feet of county records that help us to understand what life was like for those early settlers. These records provide a sense of life, commerce, industry, and governance before the formation of counties in the state of Arkansas, creation of the Arkansas Territory or the development of Davidsonville as the original county seat in 1815. These records are available for research at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com).

Anyone with family connections to Arkansas during the early territorial period or with an interest in the settlements that developed should include a research stop at NEARA to explore our treasures.

## News from SARA

Spring at Washington not only means daffodils, but also a chance to literally unearth history through the Arkansas Archeological Survey's dig in the vicinity of Dooley's Ferry near the Red River, south of Springhill, Arkansas.



Dooley's Ferry was in important crossing point on the Red River and was fortified by the Confederate Army during the Civil War. While no fighting occurred in the area, the defenses remain, along with the site believed to be the home of the ferryman. By surveying and digging at this homestead, the archeologists hope to learn more about the Civil War activity at Dooley's Ferry. The dig is under the supervision of Carl Carlson-Drexler, a Ph.D. candidate in archeology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is aided by Dr. Jamie Brandon of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Drexler teaches classes and serves as Dr. Brandon's assistant at SAU. SARA is proud to be an active partner in the dig, providing research support and labor for the dig. Findings will be included as a part of a larger project that explores south Arkansas and will be the subject of Drexler's dissertation.

Summer plans at SARA include hiring an intern to transcribe the Freedman's Bureau records (see article below), participating in the annual Red River Valley Symposium in July, and partnering with the AAS in June for their Annual Dig and Training Program to be held at Historic Washington State Park. Make plans to come see us soon to explore south Arkansas's history!

## KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

### Arkansas History Commission

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| <i>Dr. Ray Granade, Arkadelphia</i>    | <i>Mr. Robert McCarley, Little Rock</i>   |
| <i>Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Jonesboro</i>     | <i>Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, Hot Springs</i> |
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### Black History Commission of Arkansas

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|---------------------------------------|--|
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| <i>Ms. Shirley Byers, Little Rock</i> | <i>Dr. John W. Graves, Arkadelphia</i> |
| <i>Ms. Carla Coleman, Little Rock</i> | <i>Mr. Myles Jeffers, Blytheville</i>  |
| <i>Mr. James Lawson, Jacksonville</i> |  |

### Commissioner Spotlight

Carla Hines Coleman is a wife and mother of two children and has served on the Black History Commission of Arkansas since April 2004. She was elected chairperson on in 2008, succeeding Curtis H. Sykes, after having served as vice-chair from 2005 to 2008. Coleman has an Associate Degree in Business from Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock.

Her interests include the preservation of endangered African American cemeteries, Arkansas, and family history. She has been a member of the Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery Board in Little Rock since 2006 and was chairperson in 2007. She is a charter member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Arkansas Chapter, and the Preservation of African American Cemeteries.

"Carla brings a great deal of energy and commitment to the BHCA and I am grateful for her enthusiasm and leadership," said Wendy Richter, AHC Director. "She inspires the other commissioners to raise the level of awareness of Arkansas's black history and heritage." Under her leadership, the Commission has awarded dozens of grants, and sponsored several exhibits, events, and workshops highlighting various topics of black history in Arkansas.

## Mary McDonald Retires

The Arkansas History Commission said fond farewell on March 30 to Mary McDonald, Archival Technician, a twenty-two year employee of the Commission.

McDonald started at the AHC in November of 1990 and quickly became the go-to person for microfilm processing. Under Ronnie Watts direction, Mary quickly learned all aspects of the microfilm process and earned a reputation for always wanting to do a project correctly. "Mary is tenacious and always shows a wonderful positive attitude. Those are the things I will miss the most about her," said Watts, the AHC Microphotography Supervisor. He continued, "After working with her for over twenty years, I feel I am losing a valuable contemporary in our department. Her departure will leave a void not easily filled by another."

When McDonald first started working at the AHC, she really didn't know much about the mission of the Commission. She quickly learned the strength of the genealogical resources housed at the Commission and one of her favorite personal projects through the years involved researching her family tree. Filming newspapers and periodicals from around the state has given Mary a unique perspective on Arkansas news. "Following local news stories has always interested me, I will miss seeing the various news sources," McDonald said. She also developed a new hobby while filming – collecting recipes. "I do have some favorite home-town papers, and especially enjoy trying and sharing old-fashioned recipes," McDonald said.

McDonald looks forward to spending time with her husband, three children and four grand-children, during her retirement. One of the places that tops her list to visit is the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro. "I'm determined to find a diamond!" she exclaimed, a fitting statement for a woman with a sparkling personality.

## New and Updated Civil War Research Publications Available

Since the agency's creation in 1905, the Arkansas History Commission has actively collected documents related to the Civil War. As a result of more than one hundred years of acquisition, the AHC owns the largest and most comprehensive Arkansas Civil War holdings available anywhere. Two publications, *Guide to Civil War Manuscript Collections* and *Traveled through a Fine Country: the Journal of Captain Henry Brockman*, allow historians and researchers a glimpse into these valuable documents.



The newly updated *Guide to Civil War Manuscript Collections* is now available online. The guide lists items alphabetically by first letter of the collection title, and each collection's call number is included. All of these materials are available for use in the Arkansas History Commission's research room at One Capitol Mall in Little Rock.

Captain Henry Brockman served in Company K, 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, Confederate Army during the Civil War. In his journal, he describes in detail his daily activities, the many places he visited, and the things he saw during his time in the military. As Brockman "traveled through a fine country," his tour of duty took him to major battles in Arkansas and Louisiana, including stops at Jacksonport, Pocahontas, Yellville, Des Arc, Helena, Little Rock, Benton, Arkadelphia, Warren, Camden, and Shreveport. The captain's journal has been meticulously transcribed, published and available in book format [here](http://www.ark-ives.com).

And, mark your summer calendars for the release of *Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War, 1861-1865*. Containing over 200 documents and photographs from the AHC's collections, this full-color documentary history of the Civil War in Arkansas is a fascinating look at primary source materials of the time, some never before published.

## Summer Internships Available

Do you know a college student interested in history and research? The History Commission, NEARA, and SARA are hiring summer interns to transcribe historic documents, perform background research on collections, input collections data for online use, process collections, preserve materials, and other archival duties as assigned.

Good computer skills and attention to detail are requirements for the open positions, as well as a college degree or a degree in progress. Applicants should be at least 18 years of age. The positions will run from June–August, 2012.

Positions at the AHC offices in Little Rock and NEARA in Powhatan are volunteer only; one position at SARA in Washington, Arkansas, is a paid position which includes housing provided by Historic Washington State Park and \$2,500 compensation furnished by the Southwest Regional Archives Foundation. Interested applicants for the volunteer position at AHC should contact Jane Hooker, Archival Manager, at [jane.hooker@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.hooker@arkansas.gov), while those interested in the NEARA position should apply with Lisa Perry, Archival Manager, at [lisa.perry@arkansas.gov](mailto:lisa.perry@arkansas.gov).

For the paid position in Washington, Arkansas, please send a letter of application and a resume by May 12, 2012, to Peggy S. Lloyd, SARA Archival Manager, at [peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov](mailto:peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov).

Come join the fun of making the past come alive with us!

## The Workshops are Coming, The Workshops are Coming!

Nowadays, it doesn't take a midnight rider to announce important events, it only takes a click of a mouse. So, grab your electronic device and mark your calendars for our seminars on June 23, August 4, and October 27. The June Civil War-themed program, at the Arkansas State Capitol, will feature Dr. Wendy Richter lecturing on *The Rest of the Story: Arkansas's Own "Official Records,"* along with other Commission archivists speaking on Civil War topics of interest.

The August workshop will be held at Powhatan Historic State Park and Historic Washington State Park will host the October workshop. Teachers attending will receive professional development credit. For more information, contact Jane Hooker, [jane.hooker@arkansas.gov](mailto:jane.hooker@arkansas.gov).

## Take Me out to the Ball Game!

Sit down in the air-conditioning at your computer with your peanuts and Cracker Jacks and explore the history of the Arkansas Traveler baseball team through our online photo collections. Featuring such beloved players as Rube Robinson, the collection of photographs from 1920-22 is a look back at "America's Pastime" with an Arkansas twist.



The Little Rock Travelers baseball team became a charter member of the Southern Association in 1901. They won their first pennant in 1920 for manager Norman "Kid" Eberfeld. Robinson, born John Henry Roberson in Floyd, Arkansas, in 1889, "Rube" pitched for the Travelers between 1916-1928, won 26 games in 1920 and 1922, and retired in 1929 at the age of 40.

Robinson's papers are available for research online at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com).

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