THE ARKANSAS ARCHIVIST

MARCH 2014

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

February 19— March 22
"Fought in Earnest" exhibit
Ouachita County Historical Society
Camden

February 24—March 21
African American Legislators exhibit
Bailey Library
Hendrix University
Conway

March 20
Missouri Civil War Flag Repatriation
Pea Ridge National Military Park

March 28 – April 25
African American Legislators exhibit
Nevada County Depot and Museum
Prescott

March 31 – April 25
"Fought in Earnest" exhibit
Mullins Library
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville

AHC Celebrates Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a time for us to reflect on the great accomplishments of women. Too often seen as just mothers, sisters and daughters, women are frequently overlooked in history books. Their important roles in the home as well as in professional and volunteer work, such as civil rights leaders, educators, artists, musicians, club members, and politicians, can be found in the collections of the Arkansas History Commission.

Suffragettes gather in front of the State Capitol building with Governor Charles Brough during a women's suffrage rally

Letters and diaries written by women provide insight into the lives of Arkansans in the rural areas and cities from Territorial times through the 20th century. Their writings can provide a more complete picture of what life was like in the past. For instance letters from women on the home front during the Civil War tell more than what happened on the battlefields.

As women's societies gained popularity in the late 19th century and continuing into the 20th century, women became more involved in areas beyond the domestic sphere, such as the temperance movement, historic preservation, education, history, and politics. The AHC collections include papers, reports, and publications of many state chapters of women's organizations, including the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Association of University Women, the Aesthetic Club, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Home Demonstration Clubs, Temple Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Israel, and Army and Navy Woman's Club.

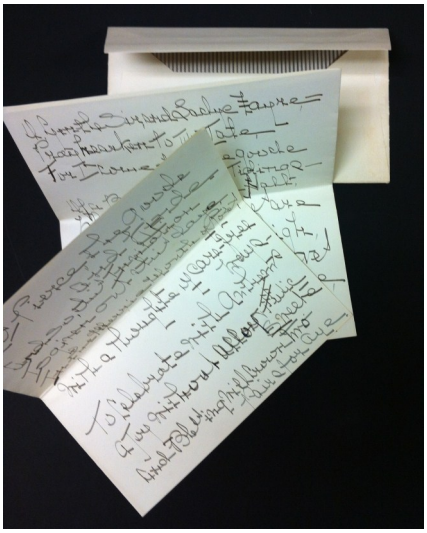
Numerous collections document the accomplishments of women in the workplace and politics during the 20th century. The Women's Emergency Committee Collection focuses on the women who heroically worked to reopen Little Rock public schools closed by Governor Faubus in 1958. The Midwife Reports include directories of midwives, permits issued to midwives, and midwife reports. The Arkansas Federal Writers Project and the Slave Narratives, as well as other Works Progress Administration (WPA) collections at the AHC, provide insight into the lives of women from plantations to politics as well as the women who worked for the WPA. The Arkansas World War II Defense Plant Employees Collection examines the "Rosie the Riveters" of Jacksonville.

The collections mentioned are only a small sample of the material related to women available at the AHC. We invite you to come to the Arkansas History Commission to explore the lives of our mothers and great-grandmothers. Remember that history is not only his story, but her story, too.

AHC to Repatriate Missouri Civil War Era Flag

On March 20, the Arkansas History Commission will repatriate a Civil War flag to the state of Missouri in a ceremony at Pea Ridge National Military Park. Information from files of the Arkansas History Commission indicates that this is the regimental flag of the 6th Missouri Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Thomas Clark Wright. The regiment served in battles at Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The flag was passed down from Colonel Wright to his granddaughter, Ada Wright Van Sickle. In the early 1960s, the flag was donated to the Garland County Historical Society, but at some point in time was removed from that organization's collection. An unidentified donor purchased the flag at an estate sale in Hot Springs and donated it to the Arkansas History Commission, where it has since remained. Former History Commission Director Dr. Wendy Richter secured the permission of the Garland County Historical Society to loan the flag or transfer it to another institution. In 2011, the flag was exhibited at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. After March 20, the flag will have a new and permanent home at the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City, Missouri. For more information on the ceremony, which is open to the public, visit the Arkansas History Commission News and Events Page at http://www.ark-ives.com/news-events/ or call us at 501-682-6900.

Conservation Corner



Imagine pulling a dusty copy of Longfellow's *Evangeline* from your bookshelf. Out fall five or six envelopes postmarked "France 1918." Suddenly the love story of Evangeline and Gabriel isn't as compelling as love letters from your soldier grandfather to his new bride.

To ensure that the letters will be available to future generations, you may unfold and flatten the letters under a cutting board weighted by a book. Understand that the fold lines will always be present. When sufficiently flat (a process that may take a period of time), place a barrier of acid-free paper from a craft shop between the envelope and the letter before slipping both into a polyester sheet protector purchased at an office supply store, labeled "archival." Why the paper barrier? To prevent acid from the envelope making further encroachments into the letter and to give the paper a little boost to combat its acidity.

Taking a different turn, you can put the letters back into their envelopes and return them to the book. Realize that in so doing, at some point, the letters will tear along the fold lines just as acid in the pulp paper will cause it to crumble, a process that may have already begun. Plus, ultimately, you'll damage the binding of the book. But if your letters have remained intact for 100 years, perhaps they won't be harmed if you leave them alone. Sometimes doing nothing is a sound conservation decision. I like the idea of love letters falling from a beautiful old book.

Black History Commission News

The Black History Commissioners celebrated Black History Month with a reception honoring African American Legislators past and present on February 13 at the State Capitol. Governor Mike Beebe delivered keynote remarks at the event, which honored seven current and former African American senators and representatives who have provided extraordinary support for the BHCA. During the ceremony, the BHCA also awarded the first annual prize in the African American Legislators essay contest. An essay on Isaac Taylor Gillam, prepared by Jimesha Williams, a student at Shiloh Adventist School, was selected as the winner. For her essay, Williams' school library will receive $100 from the BHCA for the purchase of African American history books.

In other news, Commission Chair Carla Coleman has been traveling the state promoting African American history to local churches and schools. Carla set up displays for the Black History Commission and Arkansas History Commission, and passed out rulers, brochures and resource guides at each of the events. She has also attended the Cultural Awareness Worship Service at Beebe Chapel C.M.E Church in Wrightsville; the Annual Senior Black History Luncheon at the Archview Baptist Church in Little Rock; a "Discover How to Use Deed Records to Bridge the Gap Between Slavery and Freedom" workshop at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library in Benton; the 5th Annual Carver Alumni Black History Banquet in Lonoke; and the Allen Chapel AME Annual Black History Banquet in Little Rock. Carla is keeping the road hot!

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

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The Arkansas Archivist is a publication of the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives

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Hours: 8 am–5 pm, Mon-Sat
Closed State Holidays

New at the AHC

February Donations

Arkansas History Commission
Boehr Postcard Collection
5 items

Petit Jean and Pinnacle Mountain Photographs
12 items

I Love To Tell The Story: An Interpreted History of the Pulaski Heights Baptist Church Little Rock, Arkansas
1 volume

Dunbar High School "Bearcat" Yearbook, June 1938
1 volume

Jimmy Driftwood and Friends film footage, 2 cu. ft.

Southern Arkansas University Yearbooks, 1956 – 1995
3 cu. ft.

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives
Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce Records, 1980s - 1990s
1.5 cu. ft.

From the Director

March marks the first month of publishing the AHC newsletter under the new title, *The Arkansas Archivist*. During the naming contest, we received a number of creative entries, many of them focused on history and memory. Ultimately, the name we chose was one suggested by a member of our staff, Curator Julienne Crawford. We felt this title best represented the mission of what our newsletter tries to accomplish – bringing you news of current happenings at the Arkansas History Commission and regional archives, along with interesting tidbits of Arkansas history pertaining to collections held at our three facilities. We appreciate everyone who participated in the newsletter naming contest, and have chosen recipients for the prizes outlined in the contest rules. The winner of the "backstage" tour of the AHC is John Hugg, first runner up is Ferrell Johnson, and the second runner up is James Prange. Congratulations to all three!

Look for information on our upcoming ***Arkansas Foodways seminar***, coming on May 17 in future issues of the newsletter and on our website. The location is "to be announced" at this point, but we have a great roster of speakers lined up for the event. We'll be talking about the foods that Arkansans love to eat and the reasons why. I'm hungry already!

News from NEARA

The Sloan brothers: Eugene, Lawrence, Ralph, and James

This spring marks two milestones for NEARA – the celebration of our third anniversary of service to the region and the introduction of the NEARA Award, which recognizes scholarship in early Arkansas history and using primary source materials from our archives. We have come a long way in those three years. We have moved from having just one large collection to many. This growth shows a widespread interest in saving the historical records of the region and an awareness of our role in helping northeast Arkansans do just that.

While celebrating our third anniversary, selection committee members will choose the inaugural winner of the NEARA Award. The Sloan family recognized the importance of the records housed here when they established the award. The competitors for the award found value in digging into the records and expanding our understanding of the early history of the region. The Arkansas Historical Association and AHC worked together to help promote it throughout Arkansas and Missouri. Although the winner will not be announced until April at the AHA meeting, I can think of no more fitting way to celebrate our anniversary. Our next newsletter will feature the announcement of the winner and a summary of his or her paper.

News from SARA

The Arkansas Living History Association (ALHA) held its annual meeting at Historic Washington State Park on February 20-23, 2014. Attendees came from four states: Arkansas, Illinois, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Peggy Lloyd (second from right) shows maps from SARA's collections to members of ALHA.

Members of the AHC took part in the conference. April Goff of the AHC staff at Little Rock taught a workshop on crocheting on Friday and "Using Diaries and Letters to Develop a Persona" on Saturday. Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA), a branch of the AHC, spoke on "Documenting Free Persons of Color" on Saturday morning. Conference participants also had the opportunity to tour SARA and see its holdings.

Both April and Peggy attended the conference banquet in the 1940 WPA gym on Saturday night. Dr. Debra Reid spoke on "Living History at the Crossroads." Dr. Reid is Professor of History and Women's Studies at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. She is the President of the Association of Living History, Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM), the national organization for ALHA members.

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) will also hold its annual meeting at Washington on April 3-5 this year. The AHA newsletter will feature SARA in its upcoming issue.

BHCA Reception Honoring African American Legislators

Carla Coleman with members of the Shorter College Choir

Commission Chair Carla Coleman addressing the audience at the reception

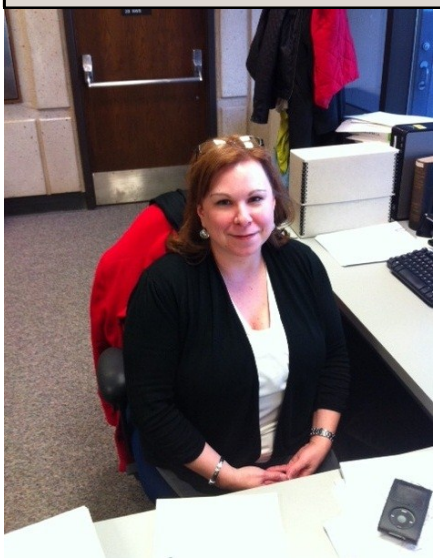
Representative Eddie Armstrong with BHCA Commissioner Myron Jackson

Governor Mike Beebe Delivering the Keynote Address

Commissioner Joyce Gibson and Jimesha Williams, winner of the Student Essay Contest

Carla Coleman, Dr. Lisa Speer, and Tatyana Oyinloye

The AHC Team

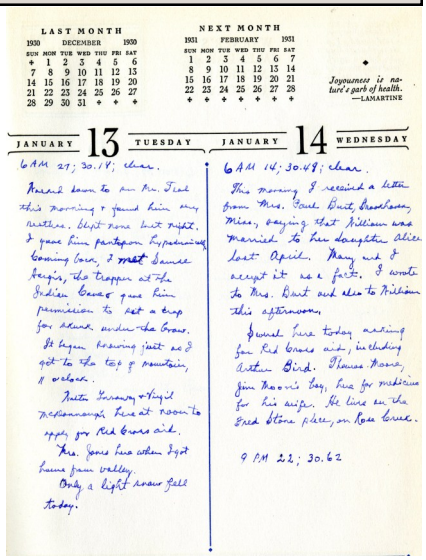


Technology has given the history field new avenues for embracing the public. Facebook and Twitter have become ubiquitous for companies seeking to promote their goods or services. The history field is no different. What is needed is someone who understands the promotional side of social media, and one of those is the latest person to join our team, Danyelle McNeill, who is serving this role for the AHC. She grew up in Walnut Ridge where she developed an early love of history. Danyelle earned a degree in history from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. After graduation, she wrote for newspapers and magazines in northwest Arkansas, wrote articles for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, and worked at the Old State House in a variety of roles.

Reflecting on what draws her to history, Danyelle argues that her love of history is the same force that attracts her to her favorite science fiction novels. "It is like a different world. They have many things that we don't have. Yet, these people are very much like us. They share the same types of struggles that we do, just with a separation of time." So, now Danyelle tries to bridge that time gap with technology. She is involved in the AHC Doc A Day project showing a different digital image of a document from Arkansas history on our website. She is also involved in our social media presence, curating our Facebook page. One day she hopes to expand into Twitter and Pinterest. Social media has become one of this new century's sources for water cooler discussions, a thought not lost on Danyelle who comments, "Good history, after all, is good gossip told well."

Staff Picks

This month's staff pick comes from John Freshour, Archival Technician . His choice is the Journal of Dr. T.W. Hardison.



LAST MONTH — DECEMBER 1930

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
*	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	*	*	*

NEXT MONTH — FEBRUARY 1931

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Joyousness is nature's park of health. —LAMARTINE

JANUARY 13 TUESDAY

6 AM 27; 30.14; clear.

Arrived down to see Mr. Teal this morning & found him very restless, but none bad night. I gave him pentagon hypodermic, coming down, I met Dance begin, the trapper at the Indian Graves gave him permission to set a trap for bears under the Graves. It began raining fast as I got to the top of mountain, 11 o'clock.

Metta Lowery & Virgil McDonough here at noon to apply for Red Cross aid.

Mrs. Jones here when I got home from valley.

Only a light snow fell today.

JANUARY 14 WEDNESDAY

6 AM 14; 30.48; clear.

This morning I received a letter from Mrs. Frank Burt Bradbury, Miss, saying that William was married to her daughter Alice last April. Mary and I accept it as a fact. I wrote to Mrs. Burt and also to William this afternoon.

Journal here today waiting for Red Cross aid, including Arthur Bird. Thomas Moore, Jim Moore's boy, here for medicine for his wife. He lives on the Greek Stone place, on Rose Creek.

9 PM 22; 30.62

Who was Dr. T.W. Hardison and what is the significance of his journal? He was camp doctor for the Works Progress Administration on Petit Jean Mountain. He was influential is getting the area designated as a state park. So, his journals tell the story of the park being created.

Are his journals mainly telling the political story? No, in addition to telling that story, there are also interesting elements from his life. Each journal entry began with a weather report. There were passages telling about the arrival and migration of wildlife in the area. Then he would talk about what his goals for the day were, and then he would discuss the politics involved in creating a state park.

There are multiple volumes to the journal. How are they organized? Each journal volume contains four months of entries. Some of these are still in their original bindings.

What stood out as most interesting to you? The doctor, in addition to being extremely thorough with his entries, talked a lot about some medical research he was performing. He was really interested in antibiotics. He seemed to try to treat everything with antibiotics — even his dogs. He thought of them as wonderdrugs. It is a very interesting view of the medical profession in the 1930s and 1940s.