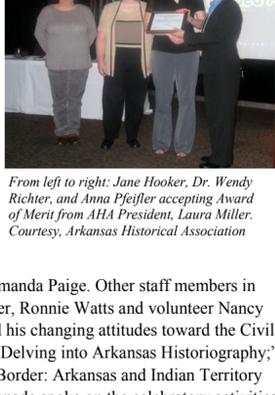


AHC Wins Award of Merit from the AHA

Several of the AHC staff headed to the hills of northwest Arkansas for the 71st Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference, held April 12-14 in Fayetteville. The theme of the 2012 conference, "A Divided Arkansas" featured sessions covering myriad aspects of the Civil War in Arkansas. Highlighting the conference were the presentations of awards for outstanding scholarship in Arkansas history topics. The History Commission was honored with an AHA Award of Merit for the www.ark-ives.com feature "Document A Day." This online resource showcases Civil War documents from the Commission's collection on a daily basis for the duration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, on which Dr. Richter serves, received the AHA's Diamond Award for their work in promoting Civil War history in Arkansas.

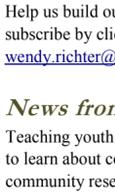


From left to right: Jane Hooker, Dr. Wendy Richter, and Anna Pfeiffer accepting Award of Merit from AHA President, Laura Miller. Courtesy, Arkansas Historical Association

Presenters included AHC's own Peggy Lloyd, Jo Blatti, and Amanda Paige. Other staff members in attendance were Jane Hooker, Anna Pfeiffer, Dr. Wendy Richter, Ronnie Watts and volunteer Nancy Watts. Lloyd discussed the personal conflict of E.W. Gantt and his changing attitudes toward the Civil War; Blatti moderated and presented on the panel discussion "Delving into Arkansas Historiography;" and Paige partnered with Tony Rose to discuss "Panic on the Border: Arkansas and Indian Territory in the Age of Removal." AHC Commission Chair Dr. Ray Granade spoke on the celebratory activities surrounding the Civil War Centennial. Other commissioners in attendance at the conference were Ms. Dorothy Boulden, Rev. James Huffman, Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, and Dr. Robert Sherer.

Staff praise for the conference cited "the interesting sessions," "the wonderful period cooking, costumes, and demonstrations by the Washington County Historical Society at the opening reception," and Scott Reynolds Nelson's "fascinating and thought-provoking luncheon keynote" with new research on "How the Civil War in the West changed the Way the World Eats Food."

From the Director



One of the biggest highlights of my job as Director is seeing the AHC's devoted and hard-working staff receive accolades for their research and inventive ideas. This issue highlights recent awards the AHC has received, along with professional research projects presented at our state's premier historical conference. A new monthly feature, "The AHC Team," spotlights the accomplishments of individuals and volunteers on staff at the AHC, SARA, and NEARA.

Our online finding aids and collections at each facility keep growing. This month we've added city directories and phone directories to www.arkcat.com database to help you in your research. A special addition to our holdings is an 1870 letter detailing life in Reconstruction Arkansas. SARA just received an intriguing photo collection that enhances a previously donated family collection. You can also read about some of our microfilm holdings in this month's News, register for the upcoming June 23 workshop, and learn about NEARA's education outreach programs.

Help us build our contact list by forwarding this (with the attached PDF) 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 with your suggestions for news you would like to read. Enjoy!

News from NEARA

Teaching youth groups and schools to learn about conducting family and community research is a vital part of our mission at NEARA. This spring, the Boy Scouts of America have participated in two Genealogy Merit Badge workshops at NEARA.

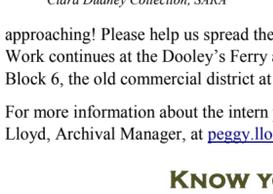
"Working with these young men is a special privilege because it allows me to teach them how we are all connected to the past," said Dr. Lisa Perry, Archival Manager at NEARA. During the workshops the Scouts learn archival terms, the differences in various research facilities, how to interview family members, how to find and review family genealogical records, and complete a family tree chart going back four generations. The five-hour workshop included presentations by Dr. Perry, Lloyd Clark, President of the Lawrence County Historical Society, and a fellow middle school student who has traced his family history back to the nineteenth century. After completing the requirements, the boys each earn the Genealogy Merit Badge from the BSA.

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

- May 1** "Early History of Midway" Midway Community Center Midway (Hot Spring County)
- May 3** "Genealogy Research at the AHC" Pope County Library Russellville
- May 4** Classroom Presentations Ellen Smith Elementary Enrichment Day Conway
- May 5** "Randolph's Roots: Exploring Our Past" Founder's Day Lecture Series Historic Imperial Theater Pocahontas
- May 12** BSA Genealogy Merit Badge Workshop NEARA Male and Female Academy Pottawatomie Historic State Park
- May 15** "Civil War in Hot Springs" Garland County Historical Society Meeting Hot Springs
- Through May 15** "Flying for the State" Exhibit Arkansas State Capitol Little Rock
- May 17** Meeting Black History Commission of Arkansas Little Rock
- May 30** "Arkansas Politics: One Hundred Years Ago" Old State House Brown Bag Lunch Program Little Rock

NEARA welcomes the opportunity to get involved with organizations to learn about the facility and conducting historical research. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Perry at lisa.perry@arkansas.gov or 870.878.6521.

News from SARA



John E. & Susanna Bostic, 1858 Clara Dudney Collection, SARA

A recent donation of photos from the estate of Martha Morton Craig of Prescott spurred SARA staffers to research and learn more about the Bosticks and other early families of the region. The Craig photos are now under study in combination with the Clara Dudney collection. Craig was the granddaughter of Frank Bostick and Dudney is related to the Bostick family through her mother, Beulah Bostick.

The Bostic family (they later altered the spelling) joined the flood of settlers to antebellum Arkansas and settled in northern Hempstead county in 1858. The Bostic family, John E., Susanna, and their five children, farmed land in Redland Township and John E. took an active role in his community. He was a Mason, served as a justice of the peace, and was elected as a state representative from Hempstead County in 1874. John died in 1878, Susanna died in 1899, and both are buried at Bethel Cemetery north of Blevins, the site of the Methodist Episcopal Church South where John served as a trustee. The church is now known as Bethel Baptist.

The May 12 deadline for summer intern applications is quickly approaching! Please help us spread the word about this learning opportunity for a college student. Work continues at the Dooley's Ferry archaeological site and further exploration will take place at Block 6, the old commercial district at Historic Washington State Park, during the month of June.

For more information about the intern program, collections or activities at SARA, contact Peggy Lloyd, Archival Manager, at peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov or 870.983.2633.

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Arkansas History Commission

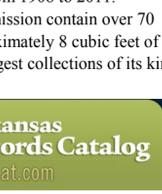
- Ms. Dorothy Boulden, El Dorado
- Dr. Ray Granade, Arkadelphia
- Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Jonesboro
- Rev. James Huffman, Fayetteville
- Mr. Robert McCarter, Little Rock
- Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, Hot Springs
- Dr. Robert Sherer, Little Rock

Black History Commission of Arkansas

- Mr. Marion Butler, Sherwood
- Ms. Shirley Byers, Little Rock
- Ms. Carla Coleman, Little Rock
- Rev. Barry Dobson, El Dorado
- Dr. John W. Graves, Arkadelphia
- Mr. Mylas Jeffers, Blytheville
- Mr. James Lawson, Jacksonville

Commissioner Spotlight

Dorothy Boulden, a native of El Dorado, Arkansas has served as a Commissioner since 2011. Her love of "all things genealogical" serves her well in her position as coordinator of the Genealogical and Local History section of the Barton Library in El Dorado.



Boulden is a graduate of El Dorado High School and UAMS. In addition to serving on the Arkansas History Commission, she also does double-duty as a member of the SARA Foundation Board. She is active in her local church, Zion Watch Baptist, where she sings in the choir and serves the Women's Missionary Society president and Finance secretary. She is the widow of Albert Boulden and has one son.

From her occupation and volunteer activities, it is not hard to guess Boulden's hobbies: reading, history, traveling, and music.

Peggy Lloyd, Manager at SARA, says "Dorothy is a very hard-working lady, who has served our Foundation for as long as I can remember." Dr. Richter adds "Having known Dorothy for many years through our mutual involvement with the Arkansas Historical Association, I was thrilled when she was appointed to the Commission." "Her dedication to and knowledge of genealogical pursuits adds a great deal to the Commission's projects," Richter said.

City and Phone Directories Finding Aids Now Online

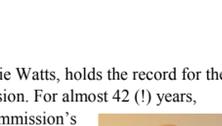
Finding aids for the popular reference resources, the state's city, business, and telephone directories, are now available on-line at www.ark-cat.com.

City directories were prevalent from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. Containing information such as personal addresses and occupations, the directories can also include spouse names, marital status, children's names and birth years, along with phone numbers in later editions. Ranging from the oldest volume in the collection, a 1871 Pine Bluff directory, to the most recent, two 1999 editions from Little Rock and Conway, these collected works contain over 300 directories, including information relating to approximately 45 Arkansas cities.

Information about hundreds of Arkansas cities (past and present) can be found in the telephone directory collection. This treasure trove of information about Arkansas population and growth includes directories from 1908 to 2011.

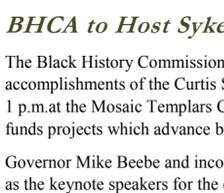
Together, the city, business, and telephone directory collections at the Commission contain over 70 cubic feet of archival material. These collective works, along with the approximately 8 cubic feet of additional directory holdings at SARA and NEARA, comprise one of the largest collections of its kind in the state.

Easy access to the finding aids at www.ark-cat.com will help you narrow your search for information about ancestors and businesses in Arkansas through the centuries. Once you've focused on particular directories, a visit to AHC, NEARA, or SARA will uncover the materials to aid your quest.



1870s Letter from White County Donated

A recent addition to our collections offers a personal glimpse into life during and immediately after the Civil War period in Arkansas. Rachel Shankles of Hot Springs, and Library Media Specialist at Lakeside High School, recently donated a three-page handwritten letter from her ancestor, David Melville to his brother, Andrew Melville, who was living in Ireland.



Dr. Richter accepting the Melville letter from Rachel Shankles. Courtesy Lakeside High School

The 1870 correspondence recounts David Melville's experiences as a Union soldier during Sherman's infamous "March to the Sea." He was eventually ordered to Arkansas to help control the "troublesome Indians." In his words, Melville stated: "I bid them good bye, I did not believe in being a target for Indians, there was no chance of me stopping there...." After leaving the Union Army, he settled in Center Hill in White County. His letter goes into detail about settling in Arkansas and how the southern states "are the best country for emigrants and ...poor man (sic) of all nations."

This intimate account of one settler's experience is a fascinating portrait of everyday life in Arkansas after the Civil War. Our thanks to Mrs. Shankles for her donation and this intriguing look into our state's past.

Richter featured in Democrat-Gazette "High Profile"

On Sunday, April 29, Dr. Wendy Richter, Director of the Arkansas History Commission, was the subject of the popular "High Profile" article in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. While the piece featured Richter, it focused on her work as Director of the AHC and provided a great dose of positive publicity for the agency.

"I am pleased the article shed light on the good work we are doing at the Commission, NEARA, and SARA," said Richter. "If a huge photo of me is what it takes to let the folks of Arkansas know what we are doing and the services we provide, I'm game," she said with a smile.

In her seven years at the agency, Richter has made improving on-site technology, internet access to records, and patron service top priorities. Congratulations to Dr. Richter for the accolades and to the Commission's employees for their dedication and service!

June Workshop Registration

Know a teacher looking for Arkansas History Professional Development credit? Encourage them to register for the upcoming June 23rd Civil War-themed workshop to be held at the Arkansas State Capitol. The free workshop is approved by the Department of Education as a professional development opportunity for teachers of all grades and is open to the public.

Featuring Dr. Wendy Richter lecturing on *The Rest of the Story: Arkansas's Own "Official Records,"* the program will also include sessions on "Proving Your Confederate Ancestry;" "E.W. Gantt;" "The Disease and Medical Care During the Civil War;" "The 1911 Confederate Reunion;" and "The White River during the Civil War." The workshop begins at 9 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol and ends at 2 p.m. Lunch is provided with advance registration.

Register for the FREE June 23 workshop [here](#)

Registration deadline: June 20

Deadline for registration is June 20. To register or for more information, email Jane Hooker at jane.hooker@arkansas.gov.

The AHC Team



Ronnie Then...

The AHC's Microphotography Supervisor, Ronnie Watts, holds the record for the longest-serving current employee at the Commission. For almost 42 (!) years, Ronnie has devoted himself to preserving the Commission's collections through the microfilming process. Under his direction and leadership, the microphotography section regularly films over 150 Arkansas newspapers, in addition to other manuscript materials, creating the state's largest collection of Arkansas-related microfilm.



and Now...

Ronnie's dry wit, along with his dedication to preserving our state's "disposable" news, endears him to patrons and other staffers alike. If you have ever found a relative's obituary, a news article for a research project or a rare journal entry from Arkansas's territorial days, you have Ronnie to thank. "His enthusiasm for the never-ending work of microfilming our collections is an inspiration to us all," said Dr. Richter.

BHCA to Host Sykes Memorial Grant Program & Reception

The Black History Commission of Arkansas will host a reception and program highlighting the accomplishments of the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant on June 6, 2012. The reception starts at 1 p.m. at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center; the program will follow. The Sykes grant program funds projects which advance black history endeavors across the state.

Governor Mike Beebe and incoming Speaker of the House Darrin Williams have been invited to serve as the keynote speakers for the event. Other presenters will update attendees on the status of successful grant projects. The free event is open to the public; please RSVP by June 4 to Jane Wilkerson at jane.wilkerson@arkansas.gov.

AHC Seeking Latino Collections

May marks the celebration of many events in Arkansas, including Cinco de Mayo, the celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. With the growing Latino population in Arkansas, the History Commission staff are always on the lookout for archival items to add to the collections reflecting this part of our culture. The Microphotography Department has been collecting and microfilming the Central Arkansas publications, "Hola, Arkansas" and "El Latino" for approximately two years. Both weekly newspapers were founded at the turn of the 21st century and the AHC is seeking back issues of these publications, along with other Spanish newspapers published in the state.

If you have a collection of these publications or other archival materials relating to Arkansas's Latino culture and are interested in donating these to the Commission, please contact Ronnie Watts at ronnie.watts@arkansas.gov.

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