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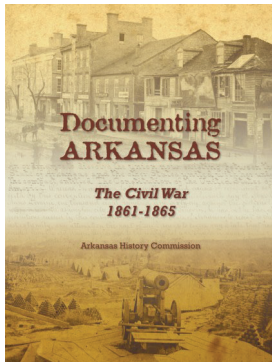
ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION NEWS

ARKANSAS'S STATE ARCHIVES

ISSUE 5

JULY 2012

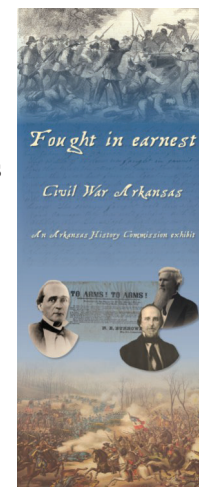
New Publication and Companion Traveling Exhibit Debut



The Arkansas History Commission announces the completion of two new Civil War projects. The newest additions to the AHC's Civil War observance are a traveling exhibit, *Fought in earnest: Civil War Arkansas*, and a 138 page soft-cover book, *Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War 1861-1865*.

Containing over 200 documents from eighty different collections at the History Commission, *Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War 1861-1865* uses these primary source materials to tell the story of the Civil War from an Arkansas perspective. The small number of items used represents the breadth of the Commission's Civil War resources, while thousands of more documents are available to researchers. The full-color volume can be ordered [here](#); cost is \$29 plus shipping.

Fought in earnest: Civil War Arkansas, the companion traveling exhibit to *Documenting Arkansas*, is available at no cost to museums, libraries, archives, schools, historical societies, and other educational or cultural institutions. The exhibit, comprised of 15 free-standing banners, chronicles major historical events in Arkansas between 1861 and 1865, in addition to the circumstances leading up to war. Images from Arkansas History Commission holdings, including original documents, photographs, maps, drawings, paintings, and artifacts, illustrate the story of the Civil War in Arkansas. These primary source materials offer a first-hand look at the lives of Confederate and Union soldiers, government officials, and civilians in Arkansas from 1861 to 1865. Currently, the exhibit has been booked for locations across Arkansas including Hot Springs National Park, Lake Dardanelle State Park, the Arkansas Supreme Court Building, Historic Washington State Park, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, Arkansas Post Museum, the Arkansas Welcome Center in Blytheville, the Arkansas State Library, and Little Rock Central High School. For more information and to schedule the exhibit in your institution, call the Arkansas History Commission at 501.682.6900 or e-mail state.archives@arkansas.gov.



From the Director



Outreach is the word of the summer season here at the Commission. A new exhibit, a new book, several summer workshops and events all work together to educate Arkansans about our state's history and the Commission's collections. Preservation and accessibility of our collections is the foundation on which AHC's outreach is built. It brings to mind the tale of the Three Little Pigs and their different experiences constructing homes. While the science and art of preserving decades-old documents, photographs, books, maps, and ephemera is tedious, time consuming, and expensive, it is vital to our mission. Without a strong foundation of conservation and preservation our programs would crumble, just like the pig's house of straw. Without educating Arkansans about our collections through events, programs, exhibits, publications, social media sites, our web page, and other outreach tools, we would only be a storage facility.

While we are in the business of educating others about our history, as professionals we must educate ourselves to stay on top of emerging trends and practices in the archives field. This summer, several AHC staff members will do just that. Jane Hooker, Anna Pfeifler and Mary Dunn attended the Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting in Phoenix in May. Jane Wilkerson, Peggy Lloyd and I will attend the Council of State Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators meeting in Santa Fe, later this month. I will have the opportunity to meet with my peers during the COSA meeting and report on AHC's exciting new projects, as well as hear ideas from other State Archivists. These meetings and sessions provide us with the opportunity to learn and bring home new concepts in the archives field.

Two of our employees were recently recognized for their service to the History Commission. Chris

Slaymaker and Julienne Crawford received Service Awards from the State of Arkansas. Slaymaker marked five years and Crawford recently celebrated her ten-year anniversary. The Black History Commission of Arkansas recently added Mr. Myron Jackson of Little Rock as a Commissioner. Welcome to the Commission, Mr. Jackson!

By providing education and access to our collections to researchers here in Arkansas and around the globe, our state's history and heritage is spread throughout the academic, preservation, publishing, and governmental realms. I hope you will take the opportunity to educate yourself and attend a seminar, view the new exhibit, or read a copy of *Documenting Arkansas* this summer to see the results of our strong foundation for yourself.

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

*Mark the
Civil War's
150th
anniversary
by reserving
"Fought in
earnest"
for your site
today!*

- July 6-8* *A Capital Weekend
"Fought in earnest: Civil War Arkansas"
Exhibit
Hot Springs National Park
Hot Springs*
- July 7* *Civil War Perspectives: A History Symposium
Presentation
Hot Springs Convention Center*
- July 19* *Genealogy Night Lock-In
Booth
Craighead County Public Library
Jonesboro*
- July 27* *History Bits and Bites
"In Remembrance" Program
AHC Conference Room
Little Rock*
- July 28* *Red River Heritage Symposium
Presentation and Booth
Historic Washington State Park
Washington*
- Genealogy Fair
Presentation and Booth
Arkansas Governor's School
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock*

News from NEARA

The AHC is excited to host a free workshop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on August 4, 2012. The workshop includes a free lunch with advance registration and will be held at the Male-Female Academy at Powhatan Historic State Park. Staff from the Arkansas History Commission and the NorthEast Arkansas Archives will present on topics including *News from NEARA: The Collections and Projects* by Dr. Lisa Perry; *The WPA in Arkansas: Resources at the State Archives* by Paula Taylor; *Myths and Legends of the Trail of Tears in Arkansas* by Amanda Paige; *In Remembrance: One Hundred Years of Arkansas Death Records* by Jo Blatti; and *Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War in Arkansas*; by Dr. Wendy Richter.

Seminars presented by the State Archives are approved by the Arkansas Department of Education as professional development credit for teachers of all grades. For more information, e-mail jane.hooker@arkansas.gov.

Register for

August 4th

Seminar

Deadline 8/1/12

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 McCarley, Little Rock

Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, Hot Springs

Dr. Robert Sherer, Little Rock

Commissioner Spotlight

As Executive Director of Arkansas State University’s Arkansas Heritage Sites program, Dr. Ruth Hawkins is the driving force behind the creation and preservation of Lakeport Plantation, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Education Center, the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum, the Historic Dyess Colony, the Crowley’s Ridge National Scenic Byway and the Arkansas segment of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The History Commission is fortunate to benefit from her expertise as she also serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission.



Born in St. Louis, Hawkins holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Missouri, a M.A. in Political Science from ASU, a Ph.D. in Higher Education and Student Personnel from the University of Mississippi. She began her career in journalism as the Assistant Women’s Editor at the *Columbia Missourian*. Hawkins made the switch to a career in academia and worked for many years at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. Hawkins has received numerous awards for her work, including induction into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame and a National Preservation Honors Award. Additionally, she serves as executive director of the Arkansas Delta Byways, Inc., and as a state advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She recently completed a new book, *Unbelievable Happiness and Final Sorrow*, about the essential role Piggott’s Pauline Pfeiffer played in her husband’s career.

Appointed to the Commission in 2009 by Governor Mike Beebe, Hawkins combines “vision and leadership to guide the Commission into the 21st century,” stated Dr. Wendy Richer. “Her passion, knowledge and commitment to preserve neglected historic sites within the Delta Region has created a viable economic heritage tourism engine for the eastern half of our state, along with an incredible legacy of preserving not only the significant structures, but the stories of the people and region connected to them,” concluded Dr. Richter.

News from SARA

The archeologists of the Arkansas Archeological Survey and their volunteers are hard at work in Washington continuing their excavations on Block 6, the original commercial district of Washington. The artifacts they are finding are plentiful and come from a variety of eras. Many recent finds can be traced to the 1920s.



Work is also ongoing at Dooley’s Ferry on the Red River to continue the investigations begun during the spring break dig in late March this year. In a stroke of pure luck, two ladies from Texas walked into the Archives a few days ago to research their connections to the Blevins family of Hempstead County and brought some unexpected help. They had a treasure trove of family photos, documents and letters—some written at the time of the Civil War. One letter came from “Leon,” a young Confederate soldier to his sweetheart, a young lady named “Pet,” in which he describes his situation at Dooley’s Ferry on the Red River.

The letter was an unexpected find. It was dated May 20, 1865. The war was over in the eastern South. President Lincoln had already fallen victim to an assassin’s bullet, and the war was winding down in the Trans-Mississippi--the part of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi.

Letters such as this one combined with the physical remains excavated by the archeologists make a rich historical record of this remarkable moment in American and Arkansas history.

Interns Provide Valuable Summer Work to the AHC

Two summer interns, Victoria Garrett and Catriona Whiteside, are spending their summers interning at SARA and the AHC, respectively.

Garrett is serving at SARA in Washington, Arkansas, from June 5 to August 11, 2012. Victoria is the fourth participant in the SARA Summer Internship Program. She is transcribing handwritten Freedmen’s Bureau records on microfilm from counties in southwest Arkansas.

Victoria is a 2008 graduate of Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock and a May 2012 graduate of Hendrix College in Conway with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Medieval Studies). At Hendrix, she was a recipient of a Hendrix Academic Scholarship and an Odyssey Distinction Award.

Whiteside, a junior at the University of Arkansas, will be working on art conservation projects and data entry during her service at the Arkansas History Commission. She is working toward her degree in Chemistry and Art Conservation and would like to pursue a M.A. in Art Conservation. Catriona was born near Liverpool, England, and moved to Joplin, Missouri, as a toddler where she still resides. She will be at the AHC through July.

New Lunch Program Debuts July 27

**Register for
“History Bits
and Bites” [here](#).**

**Registration
deadline: July 25**

“History Bits and Bites” a new, monthly brown-bag lunch program debuts July 27, 12 noon, at the Arkansas History Commission Conference Room. To inaugurate this new program, Lauren Jarvis will introduce a new finding aid and searchable index of death records, “In Remembrance.” AHC staff have been inputting records since April into the database; currently there are thousands of records from every county in Arkansas. The death records include the name, death date and source for records from 1819-1920.

“This new brown-bag lunch program will allow us to further expand our outreach to state employees and others who work close to the Commission office to educate them about our services,” stated Dr. Richter. “To be able to announce this exciting new project during this program is doubly satisfying,” she continued.

“History Bits and Bites” is free, but [registration](#) is required. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and drink to the event. The Conference Room is located within the History Commission’s suite of offices on the second floor of the One Capitol Mall Building in Little Rock.

The AHC Team



Emma Johnson, Archival Technician in the Microphotography Division, has been with the AHC since 1984. Johnson prepares and microfilms a variety of materials, along with proofing and editing. “Emma’s experience is a valuable asset to the Commission,” stated Ronnie Watts, her supervisor. “She can take on the most difficult of filming projects and treat the materials with extreme care.”

Prior to her career at the Commission, Johnson worked in the Vital Records section of the Health Department. In her time away from the AHC, Emma enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Collections Spotlight

The military collections at the AHC are one of our strongest holdings and our Civil War and WWI collections were recently augmented by donations and conservation of existing materials.

While much of our current outreach focus is on programming about the Civil War, the AHC’s WWI collection received an influx of items, including a full Army uniform, graciously donated by Mrs. Marquita Marie Walls Henderson from Arlington, Texas. The uniform belonged to Sergeant Ezra Valentine Lewis, who was stationed at Camp Pike. Lewis served in the Base Hospital and was a registered pharmacist. His civilian career included 50 years as a pharmacist in Arkansas and Texas. Mrs. Henderson also donated a professionally published photo album of Camp Pike scenes, entitled “Scenes of ...Camp Pike, National Army Cantonment, Little Rock, Arkansas,” along with Lewis’ appointment and discharge papers. Our thanks go out to Mrs. Henderson for her generous donation.

The AHC’s Civil War currency collection, comprised of printing plates, paper and coin currency and war bonds, underwent extensive conservation during the first part of this year. Thanks to an ANCRG grant, this conservation effort, re-housed the collection in archivally safe enclosures. This several month effort, headed by AHC conservator Jane Thompson, has improved upon earlier preservation efforts. The currency has been used in several of our new Civil War exhibits and publications.

**ONE CAPITOL
MALL
ROOM 2B-215**

**Arkansas
Records Catalog**
ark-cat.com

**PHONE:
501.682.6900**

**LITTLE ROCK,
ARKANSAS
72201**

WWW.ARK-IVES.COM



**EMAIL:
[STATE.ARCHIVES
@ARKANSAS.GOV](mailto:STATE.ARCHIVES@ARKANSAS.GOV)**

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