2017 was quite a year for the Arkansas State Archives! This year has been, quite possibly, one of the busiest we have had in our 112 year history. We have already been working on our schedule of events for the coming year and 2018 is shaping up to be equally as busy.

In addition to the numerous symposia we present each year, this year we launched a new series of lectures. The Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers’ Lecture Series features Arkansas historical authors. We will be continuing the quarterly lectures in 2018. Our first lecture of the year will be January 23 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage headquarters.

On February 13, the ASA and the Black History Commission of Arkansas present a symposium on the role African Americans played in Arkansas’s rural history. You can find details on how to register for this event in the Black History Commission News section of this newsletter.

Our annual genealogy event at our branch archives, the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, will highlight techniques on exploring family history through the use of land records. “Tracing Your Roots” will be held at Historic Washington State Park on May 5.

On August 4, ASA will host an event exploring the musical legacy of northeast Arkansas.

In the fall, we will be hosting our fifth annual foodways event. On September 15, the ASA and the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives will host a program about the history of Chinese immigrants in the Arkansas Delta.

We hope that you will keep an eye on future issues of The Arkansas Archivist for more details about upcoming events. You can also find out more about our events on our website or on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you in 2018!

On Tuesday, January 23, ASA will begin the second year of its Pen to Podium lecture series with a lecture by Janis F. Kearney, who will discuss her book, Sundays With TJ: 100 Years of Memories on Varner Road. Ms. Kearney is a distinguished author, having written seven books, four of which are memoirs. Her book is a portrait of her father, T.J. Kearney, who lived to be 107 years old. Her book is a mix of the history of African Americans in southeast Arkansas and her father’s recollections of coming of age in the region.

The lecture will be held in the Diamond Room of the headquarters of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Before the lecture, the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives will hold a reception with the author at 6:30 with the lecture following at 7. The lecture is free, but registration is required. To register, visit http://kearneypentopodium.eventbrite.com by January 19.
Recently, Werner Haney of Little Rock donated an interesting collection of World War I related items to the ASA. The collection is made up of items that his father, George Haney, collected during his service in the Army during the war.

George William Haney was born in 1890 to a farming family in Georgia, then moved to Ashley County when he was a child. His family grew cotton, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, had a peach orchard, and sold produce to local grocery stores.

Drafted into the Army in 1918, he completed his basic training at Camp Beauregard, then deployed to France in the spring of that year. After the war, Haney returned to his farm in Green Hill, Arkansas. He married Mabel Miles in 1922 and raised five children and three step-children.

In addition, the collection contains some rare items such as a small New Testament issued to soldiers who arrived for training. Also included is Haney’s paybook, which gives his service record and a $10,000 life insurance policy. The insurance policy required Haney to pay a premium of $6.80 a month out of his monthly salary of $33.

The collection also contains a number of postcards of soldiers in France. Among the postcards are photographs of soldiers boarding ships to take them from the United States to France.

After coming home from the war, Mr. Haney rarely spoke about his experiences. His son recalls only a few times that his father ever mentioned France. Although he may not have frequently talked about it, his wartime experiences left a lasting mark on him, enough so that he kept these historically valuable items in his possession until he died in 1974. We are thankful to his son, Werner Haney, for donating this important collection to the ASA.
As many of you probably know from reading the newsletter this year, in late August the Arkansas State Archives (ASA) was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize a number of historic Arkansas newspapers through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). The ASA is collaborating with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) on this project. The MDAH serves as our technical partner on the grant, assisting with review of the digitized film and creation of metadata. MDAH has already fielded two successful cycles of NDNP, and previously partnered with Louisiana State University to digitize newspapers from those states.

As part of the grant, an advisory board of Arkansas history scholars, librarians, archivists and journalists met to select the newspapers to be digitized from the State Archives. The selection committee members are: Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian; Trey Berry, president of SAU; Cherisse Jones-Branch, professor of history at Arkansas State University; Jimmy Bryant, head of Special Collections at the University of Central Arkansas; Michael Dougan, emeritus professor of history at Arkansas State University and author of Community Diaries, a history of Arkansas newspapers; Larry Foley, chair of the department of Journalism at the University of Arkansas; Matt Foster, Dean of Academics, Little Rock Christian Academy; Guy Lancaster, editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas; Tom Larimer, Executive Director of the Arkansas Press Association; Pat Ramsey, lecturer of History at the University of Central Arkansas and state coordinator for National History Day; and Wendy Richter, head of Special Collections, OBU and former State Historian.

The advisory committee selected newspapers from all regions of Arkansas to be considered for inclusion in the project. The titles selected will be announced at a later date, but all areas of Arkansas are represented. With the selections completed, the Archives staff begins the process of reviewing the quality of the film prior to outsourcing to a vendor for digitization. Digitization efforts will begin in early spring, with August 2019 as the goal for having all newspapers digitized and ready for uploading on the Chronicling America website (https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/), hosted by the Library of Congress. Keep reading our newsletter and watching our Facebook page for additional updates on the progress of the Arkansas Digital Newspaper Project! Happy Holidays!

**News from NEARA**

NEARA is excited to announce the acquisition of the Barbara Wright Brodie papers. Barbara’s family called Walnut Ridge and Black Rock home for many years before economic opportunity drew Barbara’s parents to Michigan.

Throughout her life, Barbara and her mother Marguerite (Hoffman) Wright, doggedly pursued their family genealogy. Family surnames, including Whitley, Sudduth, Wright, and Tolbert, were traced back several generations. Consequently, Barbara was able to enter the United Daughters of the Confederacy through her great-great-grandfather, Pinkney Reeves Whitlow, and organized a dedication of a marker at his grave.

Barbara was tenacious in tracking down her ancestors. In the end, she accumulated a considerable amount of documentation including cemetery photographs, family pictures and portraits, vital records, and family stories.

The Barbara Wright Brodie papers will be available for research soon. They are expected to provide a wealth of information for genealogists interested in the related families and to historians curious about families who have called Lawrence County home. NEARA is grateful to the family for donating this rich material which we can in turn share with researchers. If you or someone you know has materials that you are interested in donating to NEARA, please contact us at 870.878.6521 or northeast.archives@arkansas.gov or through our website: http://archives.arkansas.gov/outreach/donate-materials.aspx

**News from SARA**

A recent donation of three photographs and a Resolution of Condolence to SARA showcases a Hempstead/Lafayette County family with ties going back to the beginning of the Arkansas Territory. One of the photographs is of Cecil Autrey Landes, born January 2, 1908, in Hempstead County. Although Landes was born in Hempstead County, his family eventually moved to Lafayette County, where he met and married his wife, Marrie Eugenia Stuart. The couple had two children, one of whom was their daughter, Eugenia.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the collection is the Resolution regarding Eugenia’s father’s tragic death in a house fire in 1942. The Resolution was given to Eugenia’s mother by the Pine (a.k.a. Piney) Grove Baptist Church in Lafayette County. It reads in part, “There are times in the history of every community when men speak in bated breath, when eyes fill all too easily with tears and sorrow takes possession of the heart. Through such a period our church and community has recent[ly] passed, stirred by the death of our Brother in Faith.”

Marrie Stuart Landes is descended from the Stuart family, which still has strong ties to Columbus and Washington, Arkansas. Abraham Stuart was an early settler in Hempstead County arriving around 1819. Marrie was his great-great-great-granddaughter. The home of Marrie’s great-grandfather, Alfred O. Stuart, still stands in Washington today. The Stuart family has many connections with early settlers from Hempstead and Lafayette Counties.

Donations of archival materials are always welcome at SARA. For more information, please contact Archival Manager, Melissa Nesbitt, at southwest.archives@arkansas.gov, call 870.983.2633, or visit our website at http://archives.arkansas.gov/outreach/donate-materials.aspx
Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Friends of the Arkansas State Archives is a non-profit 501-c-3 organization formed late in 2015. The Archives is not a static environment as many may think. It is a dynamic entity tasked with not only collecting the documental history of Arkansas but also repairing, conserving, processing, protecting, cataloging and making documents and artifacts available to researching citizens. These processes require considerable customized space and equipment plus sufficient knowledgeable staff trained and experienced in archival practices. This is true for the main Archives in Little Rock as well as the Northeast Regional Archives at Powhatan and the Southwest Regional Archives at Washington.

The purpose of the Friends of the State Archives then is to encourage, support, promote, and advocate for the State Archives in its mission to preserve Arkansas history and to ensure its availability to all citizens—whether they be students, teachers, historians, journalists, authors, genealogists, preservationists, or any others inquiring about Arkansas history.

FASA works to strengthen the collections, services, and programs of the Archives. The Friends group raises funds to support the Archives’ activities and helps to sponsor public events.

Annual Membership levels include Basic at $10 and Sustaining at $25. Lifetime Membership is available at $200 and Corporate Membership at $500. Members receive invitations to pre-register for Archives’ events and newsletters from FASA and the Archives to keep them updated. Members are eligible to vote in annual board elections and gain an opportunity to network with professional and lay historians also interested in the preservation and accessibility of Arkansas historical documents. There is opportunity for members to volunteer, serve on the board or committees, or help with social media outreach. If you would like to join us send a check for your chosen level of membership to Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, PO Box 250916, Little Rock, AR 72225.

Come visit with us at the Archives Pen to Podium lecture at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at the Department of Arkansas Heritage building, 1100 Front Street, Little Rock. Janis Kearney will be speaking about her book Sundays with T.J.: 100 Years of Memories on Varner Road.

2018 FASA Board Members

Russell Baker
Susan Boyle
Ken Bridges
Richard Butler
Tom Dillard
Joan Gould
Sondra Gordy
Jajuan Johnson
Gary W. Jones
Glenn Mosenthin

Tim Nutt
Blake Perkins
Jeanne Rollberg
Frances Ross
Lynda Suffridge
Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis
Stuart Towns
Gary Walker
Blake Wintory

November—December 2017
Donations and Accessions

ASA
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 2014-2015; 2015-2016, 2 booklets
Preservation of African American Cemeteries Junior Preservation Society final grant report, 3 spiral bound reports
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism records, 106 cu.ft.
Attorney Generals Opinions, 2 envelopes
William Richard Bullard buttons, 2 buttons
Davis and Allied Families Collection, 2 cu.ft.
Richard Bullard collection, 15 cds
Index of Phillips County Death Certificates, 1917-1922, 1 disc
Arkansas Secretary of State Statements of Financial Interest, 40 cu.ft.
Arkansas State Medical Board records, 5 cu.ft.
Apsa M. Bransford scrapbook, 1885-1890
Cromwell Architects Engineers Slides, 5 metal cases
Confederate Widows Pension, Union County, Arkansas, 1 box

We always receive more material than we are able to list in our newsletter. For a full listing see our blog.

We appreciate the generous support of our donors!

Happy Holidays from the Arkansas State Archives!