

History Commission Receives ANCRC Grant

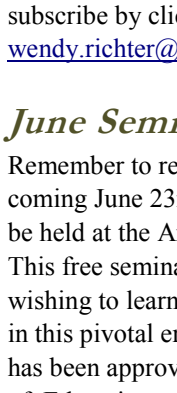
The History Commission was recently awarded a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) to preserve, electronically catalog, and develop a consolidated online search of the photographic images in the AHC collections. This project will greatly improve research accessibility to the over one-half million invaluable images in the Commission's archives.

The funds will be available July 1, 2012, and the Commission will have a year to complete the project. The Commission's photographic collection consists of black and white prints and negatives, as well as various rarer, early forms of images, including tintypes and ambrotypes. "This funding will allow us to double the amount of entries for searchable images on www.ark-ives.com and increase the number of actual images uploaded to the 'Documenting Arkansas' section of the Commission's website," said Dr. Wendy Richter, Director of the Arkansas History Commission.

The ANCRC supervises and manages a grants and trust fund for the acquisition, management, and stewardship of state-owned properties acquired or used for ANCRC approved purposes. The grants are funded through the state's real estate transfer tax. Of the nineteen projects funded this year, the History Commission grant was one of only four proposals that were funded for the full requested amount.

"My sincere thanks goes out to the members of the ANCRC for their support and understanding of the sometimes technical and detail-oriented work we do at the History Commission," stated Dr. Richter. She elaborated further by saying "each submitted project was worthy and deserving of funding and the council members had to make some tough decisions based on the limited resources available to grant applicants this year."

From the Director



Early summer is the time when most of our additional funding sources announce grant awards. It feels like Christmas at the Commission when we receive word of a successful grant application! This month we are happy to announce the awarding of a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council that will improve preservation and access to our incredible photographic collection. Grants are a vital source of project funding for us and we are keeping our fingers crossed for more good news in the coming months. In this month's issue you can read more about this funding, along with articles describing additions to our collections, much needed improvements to the Wolfe Street parking lot, upcoming events and workshops, additions of new employees, and staff spotlights.

Summer is also our busy season in the research room. Whether you are researching your family tree, exploring an obscure research topic, or just interested in our state's colorful history, I hope you will make it a point to visit us this summer. Our staff is always available to help you with your projects.

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!

June Seminar Registration

Remember to register for the free upcoming June 23rd Civil War seminar to be held at the Arkansas State Capitol.

This free seminar is open to anyone wishing to learn more about Arkansas in this pivotal era of our history, and has been approved by the Department of Education as an Arkansas History Professional Development credit opportunity for teachers of all grades.

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; Disease and Medical Care During the Civil War; The 1911 Confederate Reunion;* and *The White River during the Civil War.* The seminar begins at 9 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol and ends at 2 p.m.

Lunch is provided with advance registration.

Deadline for registration is June 21. To register, email [Jane Hooker](mailto:Jane.Hooker@arkansas.gov).

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

Registration deadline June 21

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

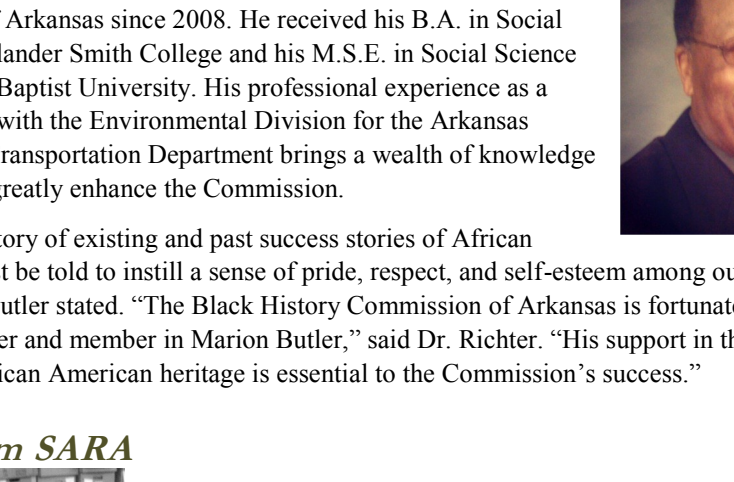
- June 6** *100th Anniversary of Arkansas Extension*
Homemakers presentation
Convention Center
Hot Springs
- Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program*
"Fulfilling the Mission and the Vision"
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
Little Rock
- June 7** *Arkansas History Commission Meeting*
AHC Conference Room
Little Rock
- June 8** *"Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley"*
Garland County Public Library
Hot Springs
- June 16** *Juneteenth 2012 Celebration*
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
Little Rock
- June 22** *"The Amazing Research Race"*
Workshop Presentation
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock
- June 23** *"Using Civil War Documents as Research Tools"*
Seminar
Arkansas State Capitol, Room 171
Little Rock
- June 30** *"Using Civil War Records in Family History Research"*
Genealogy Presentation and Booth
Arkansas Governor's School
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock

BHCA Sykes Memorial Grant Program & Reception

The Black History Commission of Arkansas hosted a reception and program highlighting the accomplishments of the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant Program on June 6, 2012 at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. 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 served as the keynote speakers for the event. Other speakers included Representative Fredrick Love of Little Rock and members of the Black History Commission of Arkansas. Over 100 attendees enjoyed these presentations: Mable Bynum, North Little Rock, "Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Incorporated;" Ralph Porter, Hot Springs, "Friendship Cemetery Unknown Marker Project;" Patricia Washington McGraw, Little Rock, "The Three As: African, American, and Arkansas: Our History, Our Heritage;" Othella Faison, Little Rock, "Fargo Agricultural School Museum Project;" and Nancy Lott and Regina Norwood, Little Rock, "Friends of Josephine Pankey."

News from NEARA



NEARA received a welcome addition to its landscaping in May - a new sign!

KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Arkansas History Commission

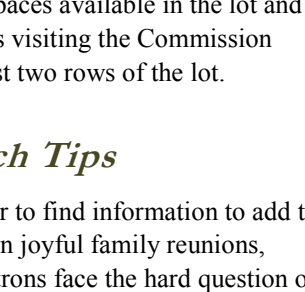
- Ms. Dorothy Boulden, El Dorado*
- Rev. James Huffman, Fayetteville*
- Dr. Ray Granade, Arkadelphia*
- Mr. Robert McCauley, Little Rock*
- Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Jonesboro*
- Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, Hot Springs*
- Dr. Robert Sberer, Little Rock*

Black History Commission of Arkansas

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

Commissioner Spotlight

A passionate advocate for history and heritage education of African American youth, Marion Butler has served on the Black History Commission of Arkansas since 2008. He received his B.A. in Social Work from Philander Smith College and his M.S.E. in Social Science from Ouachita Baptist University. His professional experience as a Division Head with the Environmental Division for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department brings a wealth of knowledge and skills that greatly enhance the Commission.



"I believe the story of existing and past success stories of African Americans must be told to instill a sense of pride, respect, and self-esteem among our younger generations," Butler stated. "The Black History Commission of Arkansas is fortunate to have such a fervent supporter and member in Marion Butler," said Dr. Richter. "His support in the promotion of Arkansas's African American heritage is essential to the Commission's success."

News from SARA



Julia Henry at work in SARA's archives

This summer seems to be a time for new beginnings, and last good-byes at SARA. Our new summer intern, Victoria Elizabeth Garrett, began work on June 5 and our Senior Experience worker Julia Henry of McNab, Arkansas, concluded her service to SARA on May 31.

Garrett is a 2012 graduate of Hendrix College and is considering a career in public history. She has participated in archaeological digs in Bamburg and Oxford, England and is looking forward to observing digs in southwest Arkansas.

Henry has provided invaluable assistance in processing the Hope Star photo collection. "Her work over the past year on very time-consuming tasks, help us tremendously in processing massive collections," said Peggy Lloyd, Archival Manager at SARA. "Her contributions will be missed," she added.

New Addition to the AHC Staff Amanda Paige

Amanda Paige has joined the staff at the AHC as an Archival Technician. Amanda is working with Ronnie Watts and the other members of the microphotography team. Many of you know Amanda from her work at UALR, first as an archival assistant, then as a project archivist for the Sequoyah Research Center. She also co-authored *Chickasaw Removal* and is currently working on her second book.



"It is great to have Amanda in a full-time position. Her attention to detail and excellent research and writing skills will be a great asset to our microphotography team," said Dr. Richter. Paige received her undergraduate and masters degrees from UALR.

We've Earned New Stripes!

A complete facelift of the west Wolfe Street parking lot has recently been completed. The resurfacing, restriping, and installation of new curbing has increased the number of spaces available in the lot and moved the visitor parking closer to the building's street entrance. Patrons visiting the Commission should enter from Wolfe Street and look for the visitor parking in the first two rows of the lot.

Pruning the Family Tree? Genealogy Research Tips

Many researchers come to the Commission's archives during the summer to find information to add to their family tree. The same researchers find lost family members that result in joyful family reunions, while others find skeletons they would rather leave uncovered. Many patrons face the hard question of whether to "prune" the family tree of indiscretions and long-buried events.

While everyone hopes their ancestors were fine, upstanding citizens or came to America through Jamestown, the reality is usually much more ordinary, but no less interesting. The first rule of genealogical research should be to accept your heritage, saints and outlaws alike, to craft a family story that embraces the whole rather than create a fiction that ignores or embellishes your ancestor's behavior.

The best approach in research is to verify, verify, verify. While genealogical internet sites are a valuable tool, primary source materials are the definitive source for identifying family members and their connections. Instead of relying on someone else's family stories, find the proof for yourself in the AHC's thousands of records. Make plans to visit the Commission, NEARA, or SARA this summer to cultivate, not prune, your family tree.

The AHC Team



Archival Manager Jane Hooker has worked for the AHC for over 28 years. Jane oversees public relations and outreach for the Commission and holds a B.A. in History from the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining the History Commission staff in 1983, she worked as an archivist at Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries and as a librarian at the *Arkansas Gazette*.

"Jane's bubbly personality, knowledge of Arkansas history and vast contacts make her the perfect fit to communicate and publicize the Commission's work," said Dr. Richter. "As one of the senior members of our team, her example of flexibility and forward thinking has helped us advance our services to patrons," she continued.

In her spare time away from work Jane likes to read, spend time with her extended family, especially her nieces and nephews, and explore Arkansas.

Microfilm, Video, and Books, Oh My!

Additions to the AHC celebrations this month cover a wide spectrum of media. *Josephine: Celebrating the Life and Legacy*, a book about the life of Mrs. Josephine Pankey, an African American educator and entrepreneur is now part of the AHC collection and available to researchers. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Black History Commission of Arkansas, authors Nancy Robinson Lott and Regina L. Norwood spent two years researching the life of Pankey, the founder of Pankey Addition in Little Rock, who owned and managed three communities in Pulaski County and provided the dream of home ownership to other African Americans. *Josephine* is available in the book section of the AHC research room.



Nancy Lott presenting a copy of Josephine to Carla Coleman, chair of the BHCA


Raw camera footage from "DiscoverAmerica," a video travel series featuring scenes from Arkansas, is now being processed and will be available to researchers soon. This footage provides a glimpse of Arkansas in the late 1990s and will be a valuable visual resource for researchers.

The 1940s Arkansas census is now available on microfilm. The records are organized by county and enumeration district. Other states' information is available by accessing ancestry.com.

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