



NEWSLETTER

November 2018 Vol. 1, No. 3

Archives Lecture Series Closes 2018 with Fort Smith History

The Arkansas State Archives presented the final installment of its Pen to Podium Historical Writers’ Lecture Series for 2018 on November 13 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage in Little Rock. The popular series showcases the work of Arkansas authors on varied topics. Featured speaker Ben Boulden of Little Rock gave an interesting talk based on his book “Hidden History of Fort Smith, Arkansas.” His topic was “Southern With Spine: Strong Women in Fort Smith 1817–1917.” Boulden described the impact of women on the city’s early history. Attendees learned of the first woman to cast a vote in a primary in the entire South. A strike by local telephone operators was described, as well as the quirky history of the city’s red-light district. The next Pen to Podium is January 15, 2019, with Dr. Blake Perkins speaking on Federal power and populist defiance in the Ozarks.



FASA directors Sonny Rhodes and Tom Dillard visit with an attendee during the reception. The Friends group co-sponsors the lecture series and assists with receptions. Right—Author Ben Boulden and Arkansas State Archives Outreach Coordinator Danyelle McNeill.

The Spirit of Friendship

Friends of the Arkansas State Archives supports preservation of our history and heritage—an invaluable part of our state’s quality of life. This year, we supported Pen to Podium lectures, needed purchases for Archives, and on-going video excerpts of key events to share with those unable to attend. We support this newsletter and assist with indexing of important Archives collections. If you know someone who would enjoy being a Friend for 2019, please consider a unique holiday gift membership. The Archives preserves what is best about our state now and for the future. It’s the time of year for the spirit of Friendship! See: <https://ararchivesfriends.org/join/> or the form on page 5. Thanks for your support!



Message from the President



The *Newsletter* is the quarterly electronic circular of the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives.

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November 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being members of the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives. It is very important that we continue to support the acquisition and preservation of the state's historical records and documents and help the Archives make them available to all. We mustn't presume that the Archives can continue to exist and succeed in its mission without the broad-based support of the state's citizens, and especially of the historical community.

During 2018, Friends purchased for the Archives the last five volumes of the Arkansas Prior Birth Index from the Arkansas Genealogical Society, plus a CD of the entire database for each of the Regional Archives as well as the main branch. We also gifted them with Randall Houpt's privately published history of his Houpt family.

Friends supported the four 2018 Pen to Podium lectures in the Archives' Arkansas History Writers' series by attending and by providing drinks for the receptions preceding them. Members attended the Chinese Foodways Symposium, which drew a large crowd in September. The Genealogy Day at the Archives, sponsored by ASA and FASA on October 27, drew more than 40 people. Staff provided orientations to the research room and to the Archives' website, and volunteers were on hand to help attendees with their research.

At the board and general membership meeting of the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives on November 3, three new members were elected to the board. They are Vincent Anderson of Baxter County, Allison Holland of Little Rock, and Richard Hartness of Wynne.

Friends' volunteers have been helping the staff with indexing early Hempstead County court records held by the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives. Meeting weekly at the Department of Arkansas Heritage Records Management Facility we have so far indexed more than 20,000 names from documents such as estate settlements, slave sales and contracts, divorce suits, bankruptcy suits, court payments for services supplied, and petitions. When complete, the index will be available online.

A committee is now updating the Friends website. You can also keep up with Friends on Facebook and Twitter. You can help spread the word about the Archives by asking a friend to join you at an event or by urging them to join Friends. Or you can make them a member by buying them a gift membership.

Looking forward to an even more successful 2019 for the Archives and its Friends,

Susan Boyle, President, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives.

Concerned Citizens Team Up for Stuttgart Cemetery Restoration

A small, neglected cemetery was recently restored by a group of Stuttgart citizens, with the support of Carla Coleman and Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis of the Preservation of African American Cemeteries (PAAC) group. Coleman is also a member of the Black History Commission of Arkansas, while Tenpenny-Lewis serves as a director of Friends of the Arkansas State Archives. The cemetery, known as Green Grove and Love Rest, was



the burial site of Stuttgart's black citizens from as far back as 1915 until the 1990s, when it reached capacity. It had been neglected in recent years. A cemetery association was formed earlier this year and began clearing and manicuring the grounds. The group also restored markers to their proper positioning. They contacted Ms. Coleman of PAAC for her insight on future upkeep of the cemetery. They learned that in many cases, African American cemeteries have never been registered, are rarely documented, infrequently appear on mapping, and are rarely, if ever, shown on historic plats. These cemeteries, many of which are considered "slave burial grounds," have been used for generations by tradition and are rarely described by deeds or other legal means. It is not until the misfortune of development that many realize a cemetery in question was never in the possession of the community. The local cemetery association is now working to establish ownership of Green

Grove and Love Rest Cemetery, in order to ensure future maintenance is carried out. The accompanying photo shows Wade Hobbs (left) and Jim Craig of Stuttgart, organizers of the local cemetery association.

Meet Our New Friends Board Members

Richard Hartness of Jonesboro is a Wynne native, historian and genealogist, and is retired from a long career as a purchasing manager. He was charter president of both the Cross County and Mississippi County Historical Societies. Richard has published articles in newspapers, magazines, and historical journals, and has published books on historical topics. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Richard is now enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University, where he is researching the first tenured black professors in Arkansas colleges and universities.

Vincent Anderson is a native of Mountain Home, where he serves as historian and reference librarian for the Baxter County Library System. He has published articles for newspapers and historical quarterlies in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and South Carolina. Vincent has also worked as historic consultant for the Travel Channel and the SyFy Channel. He is on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and is president of the Baxter County Genealogical & Historical Society. Vincent is a U.S. Air Force veteran.

Dr. Allison Denman Holland, Stuttgart native and Little Rock resident, is a faculty emeritus of the Department of Rhetoric and Writing at UALR, where she taught writing for 34 years and directed the University Writing Center for 27 years. She retired from teaching in June to devote more time to traveling and community service work. Allison is national director of the Writing Centers Research Project Archive, treasurer of the South Central Writing Centers Association, and historian of Arkansas Pioneers. She has held several state and local positions in DAR, and is a Regent of the Grand Prairie DAR Chapter in Stuttgart. Allison has received several national and regional awards in the teaching profession. She is also doing historical preservation and transcription of oral histories of veterans, and with her students, has done more than 40 oral histories for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. Allison's most recent project is preserving and transcribing WWI and WWII letters of veterans, which will be sent to the Library of Congress for preservation.



Genealogy Day at the Archives was a success. Friends of the Arkansas State Archives members were on hand, assisting the archivists by helping answer patrons' questions.

Friends Take Our Message to Social Media

Our Friends Facebook page now has a total of 1,581 followers. Video views greatly outnumber most regular information posts. Six Chinese Foodways Symposium videos garnered many views, with the most being 895 per video. Forty-two Friends videos have been posted to the web site. In addition to previous videos posted, we also have videos about Friends indexers, Genealogy Day at the Archives, and those encouraging genealogical research and travel, which go in tandem. One possibly forthcoming video will highlight Friends activities throughout 2018. On Facebook/Vimeo we have an approximate total of three hours of video since December 2017. Video locations include Central Arkansas Library System, Department of Arkansas Heritage facilities, Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute, Mosaic Templars State Temple, and the Arkansas State Archives.

Organizations and entities represented in our video testimonials and on our website include Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Arkansas Genealogical Society, Arkansas Pioneers Association, Arkansas State University Heritage Sites, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, Friends of Mosaic Templars, Gary Jones Video, Info@heritageofSports.com/arkansashistoryhub.com, Lawrence County Historical Society, St. Francis County Historical Society, and University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Twitter (@FoASA) has posted many of the same videos and much of the same information as Facebook, with slight differences, to reach a different audience. We have posted about 83 promotional Tweets this year. In the case of both Facebook and Twitter, we encourage members to "Share" and/or "Like"/"ReTweet" items to expand our reach. —Gary Jones and Jeanne Rollberg.



Friends Board of Directors meet in the Archives conference room in September 2018.

Your Commissioners

Arkansas History Commission

Jimmy Bryant, Conway
Mary Dillard, Malvern
Ronald Fuller, Little Rock
Jason B. Hendren, Bentonville
Robert McCarley, Little Rock
Rodney Soubers, Mountain Home
Dr. Micheal Tarver, Clarksville

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Carla Hines Coleman, Little Rock
Elise Hampton, Conway
Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Alexander
Myron Jackson, Little Rock
Patricia Johnson, Pocahontas
Dr. Cherisse Jones Branch, Jonesboro
Rev. Frank H. Stewart, Conway

We Are Searching for Volunteers!

Have you ever wished you could volunteer at the Arkansas State Archives? This is your opportunity! Several members of Friends have been gathering from 9:00 to 12:00 on Tuesday mornings with Archives staff around a large conference room table at the Department of Arkansas Heritage Records Management Facility to index 19th century Hempstead County records. Gloves and masks are provided. Some of the records we have indexed so far have been from the territorial period and represent all kinds of court cases from murders to lawsuits to slave sales. We all help each other and share interesting finds. It is a marvelous learning experience, plus a great help to the Archives in making these records more available to the public. We are flexible. Some of us arrive late or leave early. The RMF Building is on the north side of LaHarpe Boulevard at the Chester Street intersection. Turn left into the first driveway, continue around to the front door of the building. Please contact us to become a Friends volunteer at susanb1996@aol.com. —Susan G. Boyle, FASA President.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS HISTORY!

The Friends of the Arkansas State Archives offers a variety of levels for supporting the mission of the State Archives:

___ Basic Level, \$10 ___ Sustaining Level, \$25 ___ Organization, \$30
___ Benevolent Level, \$50 ___ Lifetime Level, \$200 ___ Corporate Level, \$500

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Gift _____

Return membership form with check payable to the: Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, P. O. Box 250916, Little Rock, AR 72225. We will be communicating with you or your gift recipient via email.

FASA is a 501(c) (3) organization. Your donations and membership are tax deductible.

Coming Events at the Arkansas State Archives

January 15

Pen to Podium Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North Street, Little Rock. Dr. Blake Perkins will speak on "Hillbilly Hellraisers: Federal Power and Populist Defiance in the Ozarks."

February 2

Black History Commission event, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, 501 West Ninth Street, Little Rock. Details to be announced. Planned topic is African American Sports in Arkansas.

March 1–2

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives Territorial Fair, Davidsonville Historic State Park.

April 16

Pen to Podium Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North Street, Little Rock. Phyllis Hodges will present "Eight Years of Unforgettable History, Featuring Eight Arkansas Firsts."

May 4

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives Genealogy Symposium, WPA Gymnasium, Historic Washington State Park. Topics will include DNA research, joining of heritage organizations, and the process of placing a building on the historic register.

June 1

Black History Commission event, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, 501 West Ninth Street, Little Rock. Details to be announced. Planned topics include the Elaine massacre, African American Businesses in Arkansas, and History of Little Rock's Ninth Street.

August 10

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives event, Williams Baptist University, Walnut Ridge. Topics on transportation are planned.

August 20

Pen to Podium Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North Street, Little Rock. Mark K. Christ will speak on "This Day We Marched Again."

September 14

Arkansas State Archives Annual Foodways Event, Pulaski Technical College, 16936 Interstate 30 North, Benton. Planned topic is Mediterranean foodways.

October 26

Archives Month event, venue and details to be determined.

November 12

Pen to Podium Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Department of Arkansas Heritage, 1100 North Street, Little Rock. Joe David Rice will present "Arkansas Backstories: Quirks, Characters, and Curiosities of the Natural State."

Mark your calendar!

We Salute Our Life Members!

Thea Walden Baker
Nancy Bartlett
Bob Besom
Frank Bigger
James R. Bruce
Joann Cooper
Ron Fuller
Prof. John William Graves
Mary Heady

Sandra Hillier
Cheryl Nichols
Gordon S. Rather Jr.
Maylon T. Rice
Elizabeth Robbins
Mrs. Roy Roe
Frances Ross
James B. Rule
Robert G. Sherer (dec.)

Kitty Clay Sloan
Rod Soubers
Dr. Lisa Speer
Dr. Frank Thibault
W. Stuart Towns
Linda Kay White
Leah Wilkinson

Mission of the Arkansas State Archives and its branches:

- Keep and care for the official archives of the State of Arkansas;
- Collect material bearing on the history of Arkansas from the earliest times;
- Copy and edit official records and other historical material; and
- Encourage historical work and research by the public.

The mission of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA), a branch of the Arkansas State Archives, is to collect and preserve primary and secondary source materials pertaining to the history of northeast Arkansas and its people. NEARA also serves as a resource center for historical research focusing on the unique history, culture, and heritage of the area. NEARA opened in 2011, founded through a partnership between the Arkansas History Commission and Arkansas State Parks, and is located within Powhatan Historic State Park. NEARA collects material on a 16-county region in Northeast Arkansas, which includes the counties of: Baxter, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp, and Stone. Email: northeast.archives@arkansas.gov. Phone: 870-878-6521.

The mission of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA), a branch of the Arkansas State Archives, is to collect and preserve primary and secondary source materials pertaining to the history of southwest Arkansas and its people, and to serve as a resource center for historical research focusing on the unique history, culture, and heritage of the area. SARA, which was founded in 1978 as a project of the Hempstead County Historical Society, with assistance from the Arkansas History Commission, Historic Washington State Park, and the Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation, is located within Historic Washington State Park. The Arkansas History Commission acquired SARA in 2005. SARA offers a variety of research resources related to a 12-county region in southwest Arkansas that includes the counties of Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union. Melissa Nesbitt is the Archival Manager. Email: southwest.archives@arkansas.gov. Phone: 870-983-2633.



Board of Directors, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Susan Boyle, President Lynda Suffridge, Vice President Tim Nutt, Secretary Tom Dillard, Treasurer

Vincent Anderson, Mountain Home
Russell Baker, Mabelvale
Susan Boyle, Little Rock
Ken Bridges, El Dorado
Richard Butler, Little Rock
Tom Dillard, Malvern
Sondra Gordy, Conway
Richard Hartness, Wynne
Allison Holland, Little Rock
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Glenn Mosenthin, Searcy
Blake Perkins, Lynn
Sonny Rhodes, N. Little Rock
Jeanne Rollberg, Little Rock
Lynda Suffridge, N. Little Rock
Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, Little Rock
Stuart Towns, Forrest City
Gary Walker, DeQueen
Blake Wintory, Lake Village

Getting Involved

Besides joining the Friends group, there are other ways you can support the preservation of Arkansas's documentary heritage:

- Contact public officials to encourage their support of the State and Regional Archives.
- Volunteer at the Archives for special projects, exhibits, research, and events.
- Join a Friends committee. You can be very helpful with publicity, outreach, advocacy, and membership.
- Write articles for our newsletter, or assist with content for our Facebook page.

Membership Benefits

- Invitations to pre-register for Archives events prior to the general public.
- Receive newsletters from the Archives as well as the Friends organization.
- Eligibility to vote in the annual membership meeting of the Friends.
- Opportunity to network with a community of professional and lay historians interested in preserving our state's history.
- Help the Friends support, promote, and strengthen the collections, services, and programs of the Arkansas State Archives.

Write us at P.O. Box 250916, Little Rock, AR 72225

Check out our website at ararchivesfriends.org

www.facebook.com/ARArchivesFriends

Visit us on Twitter at [@FoASA](https://twitter.com/FoASA)

Please see the membership form on page 5.

