



NEWSLETTER

February 2019 Vol. 2, No. 1

FASA Director Richard Butler Receives DAR Preservation Medal



Richard C. Butler Jr. was the recipient of the National Historic Preservation Medal, awarded by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and was recognized at a ceremony on January 24, 2019 at the Fletcher Branch Library in Little Rock. The presentation was hosted by the Arkansas State Society DAR, in conjunction with the Gilbert Marshall Chapter. State DAR Regent Junelle Mongno (at left) and Honorary State Regent Jerrie Townsend presented the medal. Cindy Segraves Phillips, National Historic Preservation Chair, stated, "The Historic Preservation Medal is the most prestigious preservation award the DAR presents to individuals who have done extraordinary volunteer work in

historic preservation over a long period of time." Phillips continued, "The generous gifts of his time and expertise to his community are impressive. Because of Butler's efforts, the history that has been preserved and documented will be shared with many future generations."

Over the course of forty years, Mr. Butler served and continues to serve numerous organizations and boards devoted to the preservation of Arkansas history. From his first visit to Washington, Arkansas with his father at the age of ten, Mr. Butler has long supported the efforts to preserve and restore the area's historic structures. Recognizing Mr. Butler's commitment to the community of Washington, Gov. Frank White appointed him to the State Historic Preservation Board.

In addition to his work to preserve Washington, Arkansas (now Historic Washington State Park), Mr. Butler restored the Hotze house on 17th and Main Streets in Little Rock, where he resided for a number of years, and in approximately 2005, began work to restore the historic Palmer House in Blackton, Monroe County, Arkansas. Mr. Butler is active in the Quapaw Quarter Association, the Mt. Holly Cemetery Association, the Pulaski County Historical Society, the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, Arkansas Pioneers Association, Arkansas Historical Association, Arkansas Genealogical Society, Heritage Seekers, Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery Association, and serves numerous other organizations and boards. We salute our esteemed member on his well-deserved award!

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

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February 2019

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As we move further into the new year, our organization continues to attract new members. We need to continue to grow. Please think about persons and organizations that share your interest in historical and genealogical research. If their topics of interest relate to Arkansas, our State Archives in Little Rock, Powhatan, and Washington are excellent places to start or finish their research. Also, county historical and genealogical societies, heritage groups such as DAR, UDC, SCV, and Colonial Dames can join at the Organization level for only \$35.00. Encourage them to join and support Friends and the State Archives. Another possible source of supporting memberships are commercial businesses and corporations. You just might be the person to encourage a commercial business or two to support Friends and the State Archives.



At our January Board meeting we discussed establishing a “Speakers’ Bureau” to help spread the word about Friends and the role and resources of the State Archives. Our thought is that all civic clubs such as Rotary and Lions, heritage groups, and historical/genealogical societies are always on the lookout for programs at their weekly or monthly meetings. Our Speakers’ Bureau could be a wonderful asset for promoting Friends and the State Archives. So, if you or a friend are members of such an organization, consider inviting one of our volunteer speakers to present a program to your group. Contact one of the Board members or officers. We’ll be happy to arrange a presentation.

The Staff of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives and the Davidsonville Historic State Park are celebrating the Territorial Bicentennial with a day of what life could have been like in Davidsonville 200 years ago. The commemoration will be Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Try your hand at candle making, tomahawk throwing, carpentry, brickmaking, quill writing, historic games and more. The event is free with food and merchandise available for purchase. For more information, call the park at 870-892-4708 or go to davidsonville@arkansas.gov.

A friendly reminder: our fiscal year begins January 1. Now is the time to renew for 2019 and as you do, please consider moving up to the next level of membership.

Best wishes for a great 2019.

Stuart Towns, President, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives
Forrest City, AR

Friends Member Spotlight: Museum of Native American History



Museum of Native American History, Bentonville, Arkansas. *Photo and article submitted by Tom Dillard.*

One of the charter members of the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives is the Museum of Native American History in Bentonville. The Museum is a non-profit, privately owned museum. It was established in 2006 by David Bogle, a Bentonville native. Bogle, a registered member of the Cherokee Nation, is a native of Bentonville. He has been a collector of Native American artifacts for many years prior to founding the museum in 2006. The museum houses more than 10,000 artifacts, most owned by the Museum but some being borrowed from other institutions, including the University of Arkansas Museum collection.

Bogle became interested in collecting Indian artifacts in 2002 when he bought a large arrowhead collection from a longtime friend, John Fryer of Bentonville. The first museum was located in downtown Bentonville on North Main Street, but in 2008 it was moved to a larger facility at 202 SW O Street. The building contains 13,500 square feet. Among the treasures to be found in the Museum's permanent collection are numerous human effigy vessels made in Arkansas and surrounding areas dating to the Mississippian period of Native American history, ca. 1300-1500. The eclectic collection contains artifacts from the entirety of the western hemisphere, from Alaska to Patagonia.

David Bogle is the son of Bentonville residents Bob and Marilyn Bogle. Bob Bogle was the first manager of Sam Walton's original Bentonville store, Walton Five and Dime. He is credited with suggesting the name Wal-Mart. The museum is open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday. Admission is free of charge. More information, including a virtual tour, can be found at the Museum's website, www.monah.us/mission-and-history/. The Friends of the Arkansas State Archives are proud to have the Museum of Native American History as a member.

Dr. Blake Perkins Headlines January Pen to Podium Lecture



Dr. Blake Perkins of Williams College signs a copy of his book *Hillbilly Hellraisers* for fellow FASA director Gary Jones.

The Arkansas State Archives presented its first 2019 Pen to Podium Historical Writers' Lecture on January 15 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage in Little Rock. The popular series showcases the work of the state's authors on varied topics. Featured speaker for the event was Dr. Blake Perkins, author of *Hillbilly Hellraisers: Federal Power and Populist Defiance in the Ozarks*. Dr. Perkins is Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Williams College in Walnut Ridge, and a FASA director. He discussed the roots of rural defiance in the Ozarks and how it changed over time. The book focuses on the experiences and attitudes of rural people as they interacted with government in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Early resistance sprang from farmers' conflicts with capitalist elites who held the local levers of Federal power. Then as industry and agribusiness displaced family farms after World War II, a conservative cohort of town business elites, local political officials, and Midwestern immigrants arose from the Ozarks' new low-wage, union-averse economy. Dr. Perkins explained that this modern anti-government conservatism bore little resemblance to the backcountry populism of an earlier age, but has much in common with the movement elsewhere. This latest installment in the Pen to Podium series was most enjoyable. The Friends group served refreshments before the program began.

April Pen to Podium Lecture To Feature Author Phyllis Hodges

Come learn about some of Arkansas's trailblazers! Author Phyllis Hodges will discuss her book, *8 years of Unforgettable History: the Allure of America's First*, at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Friends of the Arkansas State Archives plans a reception at 5:30 p.m. Come network and learn! The free lecture will highlight some of Arkansas's trailblazers, and will parallel the works of former U.S. President Barak Obama. The list of great firsts includes people of all backgrounds. Hodges will talk about people like 2016 Olympic Gold Medal Long Jumper Jeff Henderson. Hodges has more than 30 years of experience as a clergy, educator, and fitness trainer. She is a world traveler with a vision to shape up the world spiritually, mentally, physically and financially. She travels Arkansas as an ambassador on health and fitness via workshops, seminars, health fairs and schools. Hodges also is the owner of Carousel Fit-4-Life Wellness Center in North Little Rock.

Meet a Friends Director: Mountain Home's Vincent Anderson

Vincent Anderson is a native of the Ozarks and currently works at the Baxter County Library in Mountain Home, AR. He serves as historian, reference librarian, and teacher. In 2004, Vincent graduated with a Bachelor of Biblical Arts. In 2006, Vincent graduated from Arkansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education. In 2016, he was appointed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to serve on the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Advisory Commission. Vincent completed his Graduate Degree in American History from American Military University in Charles Town, West Virginia in December 2017.



Vincent enjoys researching the Ozark region and writing a blog on the Internet entitled *Ozarks' History*. Throughout his studies, he has examined the progress of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Arkansas from 1867–1897. Vincent's purpose in these studies is to uncover the history of Arkansas's rivers and discover the influential people who tamed and harness Arkansas's resources. Access to records, letters, and newspapers from the Arkansas State Archives has been a key for Vincent to maintain his research.



Dr. Speer Given Resolution from Friends Board

The Board of Directors of Friends of the Arkansas State Archives presented a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation to Dr. Lisa Speer, who serves as Archivist and Associate Professor at Ouachita Baptist University. The certificate was given to Dr. Speer by FASA Director Tom Dillard at the February 5 meeting of the Clark County Historical Association in Arkadelphia. According to Dillard, "this resolution recognizes Dr. Speer's five-year tenure as Director of the State Archives. She is a great asset to the state's history. All persons interested in our heritage owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Courtesy of the Clark County Historical Association.

In 2018 alone, the Arkansas State Archives... uploaded 937 machine-readable cataloging records, catalogued 567 artifacts, filmed 275 rolls of new microfilm and duplicated 519 rolls, conserved or rehoused 1696 items, received 456 cubic feet of donated material from 96 donors including 12 state agencies, processed 414.97 cubic feet of material, cleaned and rehoused 892 Eckler prints and negatives, had 27 volunteers work 236.5 hours, gave 35 public presentations, hosted or co-hosted 19 events, had its 3 travelling exhibits hosted by 29 institutions, added 2,120 new followers across social media, and served 10,529 patrons online and in person!

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center Celebrates Renovation



Governor Asa Hutchinson and Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony February 1 at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. Stacy Hurst, DuShun Scarbrough, Tracy Steele and Ryan Davis also took part in the ceremony celebrating the renovation of the historic building. The Department of Arkansas Heritage purchased the Mosaic Templars State Temple building in March 2017 and later announced plans for the restoration, rehabilitation and occupation of the facility. The building reopened in the fall of 2018, and now provides office space for the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and the Arkansas Health Services Permit Agency. *Courtesy MTCC.*

Archives To Hold Territorial Bicentennial Celebration March 1

The Arkansas State Archives and other divisions of the Department of Arkansas Heritage are putting together a grand celebration for the Arkansas Territory bicentennial! Join them for a birthday celebration from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second floor Rotunda of the State Capitol. Governor Asa Hutchinson will speak during a 10 a.m. news conference. Other speakers are Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Stacy Hurst, State Historian Wendy Richter and Swanee Bennett, director of Historic Arkansas Museum. This March marks the 200th year of the Arkansas Territory, which the U.S. Congress originally formed with parts of what is now Oklahoma and Texas. The move created the state's first government in 1819 and laid the groundwork for achieving statehood in 1836. We will celebrate with special speakers, birthday cake, historical displays and exhibits and period actors! Come learn about our Territory seals, get a free Territory map and enjoy bringing history to life.

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 northwest corner of LaHarpe Boulevard and Chester Street. 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 Treasurer.

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, \$35
___ Benevolent Level, \$50 ___ Lifetime Level, \$250 ___ 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 Sponsored by the Arkansas State Archives

March 1

Arkansas Territory Bicentennial Celebration, Arkansas State Capitol, Second Floor Rotunda.

March 1–2

Territorial Arkansas Living History School Day and Festival, 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 "8 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. Planned topics include the Elaine massacre.

August 10

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives event, Williams Baptist University, Walnut Ridge. Topics will be Arkansas's transportation history.

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 Greek foodways.

October 26

Archives Month event, venue to be determined. Topics will be on Arkansas's Territorial Bicentennial.

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."

Check the Archives Facebook page for details closer to the events. 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

Allison Holland

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.

In 2017, the Arkansas State Archives was awarded a grant in the amount of \$208,128 for the digitization of historic Arkansas newspapers through the National Endowment of the Humanities. The National Digital Newspaper Program grant will allow 100,000 pages of historic Arkansas newspapers from the collections of the State Archives to be digitized and made available online for research. The project is a partnership between the Arkansas State Archives and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which will provide technical support to Arkansas in the digitization. The first two newspapers, the *Conway Log Cabin Democrat* and the *Forrest City Times*, are up on the site and can be viewed now! You can check them out at: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Arkansasðnicity=&language=>

From the Archives' Facebook Page



Pictured here is Pickens W. Black Jr., circa 1930s, with an aircraft he built. Black was the first known African American to receive a pilot's license. A planter in Blackville (Jackson County), Pickens enjoyed flying over the cotton fields and terrifying the cotton pickers. *Photo courtesy of the Arkansas State Archives. Information from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.*



Friends of the Arkansas State Archives board members gathered for their quarterly meeting January 26 at the Archives. Seated are: Sonda Gordy, Glenn Mosenthin, Sonny Rhodes, Lynda Suffridge, and Vince Anderson. Standing are: Tim Nutt, Stuart Towns, Archives Director Dr. Wendy Richter, Richard Hartness, Russell Baker, Jeanne Rollberg, Susan Boyle, and Tom Dillard. *Photo courtesy of Gary Jones.*

Time Travel and Research: Tourism and the Arkansas State Archives



Are you telling tourists your community's unique historic story?

Join the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives <https://ararchivesfriends.org/>

Genealogy Travel and Research

*48 percent of new researchers at the ARKANSAS STATE ARCHIVES over a 3-year-period were from out of state.

*Travelers to YOUR COMMUNITY for heritage tourism and genealogy travel seek research resources.

*Arkansas investment in genealogy travel and research has economic benefits for YOUR tourism region and YOUR bottom line. Extra research days in Arkansas = extra tourism \$.

*More than 20 million people have taken DNA tests. There's a strong DNA connection to ancestor and "roots tourism"/genealogy travel.

Arkansas State Archives

*The ARKANSAS STATE ARCHIVES has the world's largest collection of Arkansas history, in facilities in Little Rock, Old Washington State Park, and Powhatan.

*ASA works with local communities to collect, index, and make available the records and artifacts that tell YOUR community's story. When heritage and genealogy tourists leave our state after research, they leave with a sense of place.

*What are YOU doing to connect with and support the Archives and local research facilities in your area, to support your tourists?

• For more information, contact Jeanne Rollberg at jeanne@jeaneology.us

Governor's Conference on Tourism
February 24–26, 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Board of Directors, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Stuart Towns, President Lynda Suffridge, Vice President Tim Nutt, Secretary Susan Boyle, 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
Jajuan Johnson, N. Little Rock

Gary W. Jones, Little Rock
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

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

Please see the membership form on page 5.

