

Arkansas History Commission Staff

Wendy Richter became the State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission in 2005. She has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University. A certified archivist, she previously served as Associate Professor and Archivist at Ouachita Baptist University, teaching archival administration and Arkansas history. Richter has authored, compiled, and edited numerous books and articles on state and local history.

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Russell P. Baker is the Archival Manager at the Arkansas History Commission. He has a B.A. in History from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, an M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and is a certified archivist. Baker is the author of numerous works and lectures frequently on modern family history research theory. He is a past president of the Arkansas Genealogical Society and has served on its board of directors for almost three decades. He has worked for the History Commission since 1970.

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Sheila Bevill is the Librarian at the Arkansas History Commission and joined the staff in 1988. She has a B.S.E. and M.L.S. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Prior to her employment at the History Commission, she worked as an elementary school teacher and also as a library technical assistant at UAMS.

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Julienne Crawford is the Curator at the Arkansas History Commission, joining the staff in 2002. She has a B. S. in Anthropology from James Madison University. While attending the Public History graduate program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Crawford worked as a graduate assistant at the Clinton Presidential Materials Project that became the William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum. Crawford previously served as Program Coordinator for the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation in Vicksburg.

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Lynn Ewbank is an Archivist at the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Arkansas, and is a certified archivist. Since joining the History Commission staff in 1976, one of her major accomplishments has been leading the Stage One Digitization project that put over 12,500 historical Arkansas images online. Ewbank is also an award-winning author.

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Ruth Hall, an Archival Microphotographer, has worked at the Arkansas History Commission on two separate occasions, 1977-1981, and 1984 to the present. She also worked as a Microphotographer for the Vital Records section of the Department of Health from 1982-1984.

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Jane Hooker is an Archivist at the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.A. in History from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Prior to joining the History Commission staff in 1983, she worked as an archivist at Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, and as a news librarian at the Arkansas Gazette.

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Gail Martin is the Administrative Assistant at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA), a branch of the Arkansas History Commission. She has an associate degree from the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. Martin has worked at SARA since 1987, first as volunteer, and then as an employee.

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Ronnie Watts is the Archival Microphotographer Supervisor at the Arkansas History Commission. He has worked for the Commission since 1970. Under Watts' direction, the microphotography section regularly films approximately 155 Arkansas newspapers in addition to other manuscript materials, creating the state's largest collection of Arkansas-related microfilm. Email: ronnie.watts@arkansas.gov

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