

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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Sheila Bevill is a 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 a 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 Archival Manager 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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April Goff is an Administrative Specialist III at the Arkansas History Commission. She attended Arkansas State University, served in the military intelligence field for the U.S. Army, and is pursuing a B.A. in History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Long interested in genealogy, Goff joined the History Commission staff in 2003 and has developed specialties in cemetery and Arkansas State Hospital research.

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Ruth Hall, an Archival Technician, 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 Archival Manager 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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Brian Irby is an Administrative Specialist II at the Arkansas History Commission. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in History from the University of Central Arkansas, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Irby joined the staff of the Arkansas History Commission in 2008.

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Jeff Lewellen is an Archivist at the Arkansas History Commission. He has a B.A. in History from Hendrix College and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Prior to joining the History Commission staff in 1990, he served as an archival assistant at the UALR Special Collections.

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Linda McDowell is the African American History Coordinator at the Arkansas History Commission. McDowell graduated from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri with a B.S. in Education. Her research emphasis is African American history and genealogy. She was previously the Genealogy Coordinator at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. McDowell joined the History Commission staff in 2006.

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Gail Martin is an Administrative Specialist III 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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Cristin Slaymaker is a Library Technician at the Arkansas History Commission. She graduated from Lyon College with a B.A. in Spanish. She is working on a master's degree in Public History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Slaymaker has worked as an interpreter at Toltec Mounds State Park, and as an intern at the Old Independence Regional Museum in Batesville, Arkansas.

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Tatyana Stubblefield is an Archival Technician who has worked at the Arkansas History Commission since 2005. Before joining the staff at the History Commission, she worked in the Microfilm and Duplication Laboratory for the Vital Records Control. Stubblefield is currently pursuing an associate degree in business at Pulaski Technical College.

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Paula Kyzer Taylor is an Archivist at the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.S.E. from State College of Arkansas (now University of Central Arkansas) and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She served as an archival assistant at UALR Special Collections before joining the History Commission staff in 1994.

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Jane Thompson is an Archival Manager for the Arkansas History Commission. She has a Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a specialization in preservation administration, and B.A. in English and an M.A. in Speech/Drama from the University of Nebraska. Thompson was the coordinator of the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library and administered a statewide reading program. In addition, she served as a public library director in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois prior to moving to Arkansas.

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Ronnie Watts is the Archival Microphotography 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.

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Jane Wilkerson is a Library Technician at the Arkansas History Commission. She has a B.A. in history from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public History at the school. Wilkerson's genealogical interests include several counties in Arkansas, and she specializes in adoption research. She joined the History Commission staff in 2001.

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