

12-7-2016

Postcards feature county towns

Wendy Bradley Richter

Arkansas State Archives, wendy.richter@arkansas.gov

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/articles>



Part of the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Richter, Wendy Bradley, "Postcards feature county towns" (2016). *Articles*. 177.
<https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/articles/177>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

Postcards feature county towns

By Wendy Richter
For the Siftings

The Clark County Historical Association has just released the 2016 edition of the Clark County Historical Journal. Published since 1973, the Journal is one of the Association's major projects each year. The book is lavishly illustrated by dozens of photographs and images. The cover features 1886 postmarks from the Clark County towns of Beirne, Gurdon, and Okolona.

Prior to the availability of the telegraph, telephone, radio, television, or the internet, mail provided the only means of communication between different locales. And, in the United States, early on, the mail system proved to be primitive, slow, and unpredictable. An article by Wendy Richter, "Like Angels' Visits"—Postal Service in Territorial Arkansas," describes postal service in early Arkansas, and particularly post offices and mail service in Clark County. The county's post offices have a fascinating history



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
An 1889 Letterhead of the Smithton Lumber Company.

and add much to what is known about various communities—for example, many once-bustling communities have faded into obscurity as population shifts and modernization occurred, all illustrated by establishment and discontinuation of post offices.

As its title suggests, in "Indian Heritage: Fact or Family Lore," Laverne Holder Todd explores family tradition regarding the American Indian heritage of Eula Oneida Pyle Tucker, who lived for many years with her family in the Richwoods community of Clark County. Todd illustrates some of the many roadblocks

that can be encountered along the way of proving such Native American origins.

"Ceramics on the Arkansas Frontier" brings an exhibit curated by Meeks Etchieson into a print format. The exhibit opened at the Ouachita Baptist University Library earlier this year, and features examples of ceramics that would likely have been used by Clark County residents in the first half of the nineteenth century. The exhibit and article feature several different decorative styles, including edge-decorated wares, painted wares, luster wares, and transfer printed wares.

The Journal also includes an article titled, "Some Clark County Connections: The Texas War of Independence." Charlotte Williams Jeffers' article offers a glimpse into the fascinating lives of some of the county's earliest citizens. While few people link Clark County with Mexico and the Texas Revolution, Jeffers explores the connections between them, weaving a tale around one woman, her great-great-grandmother, Mary Lightfoot. Several Clark County men fought for Texas' independence from Mexico in 1836, and even died at the Alamo.

By the time of the early twentieth century, letterheads had grown in importance as a way to identify a business, and also served as advertisement. Some companies utilized images of their business or products, such as the Smithton Lumber Company. Some were quite ornate, while others chose very simple artwork. The Journal article "Letterheads from Clark County" features almost forty different examples ranging in date from the 1870s

to the 1930s.

Other articles include an election year story from over 100 years ago, "Election Year 1910: Clark County's Democratic Primary" by Shirley Pace Graham; and also a recollection of a family visit to Clark County in "The Snapshot: A Bittersweet Memento," by Lin Eakin Watson. Ray Granade's article on "Gurdon, Baptists, and Railroads," details the story of that town's early days. Also included is a section on "100 Years Ago: Front Page Stories from 1916," which features articles from Arkadelphia's Southern Standard newspaper of a century ago.

For information about how to get your copy of the Journal or to inquire about other Clark County history matters, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum (www.clarkcountyhistory.org or 230.1360) or the Clark County Historical Association's Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library (www.obu.edu/archives or 245.5332).