

CCHA organized in 1972

By Wendy Richter

For the Siftings

Since 1972 the Clark County Historical Association has pursued its mission to discover, preserve, and disseminate information about Clark County and its people. To achieve these goals, the organization's activities range from the operation of a Museum in a historic structure to publication of historical information to placement of historical markers to production of living history events.

The Clark County Historical Association held its official organizational meeting at a local restaurant on Oct. 30, 1972, with 127 in attendance. Interested parties from all walks of life attended that first meeting, organized primarily by educator Amy Jean Greene. Their common objective was to preserve the county's present and past for the future. Since that time, the group has attracted members from the county and across the country.

The CCHA has indeed followed its original plan to collect, preserve, and make available the county's history. Preservation has included an interest in historic structures. For example, today the Association's Museum is housed in the former train station. The group has supported efforts to preserve the 1899 courthouse, including its restoration after the 1997 tornado. A program to erect historic markers recognizes numerous historic sites around the county. Preser-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Pictured are the Clark County Historical Association members when the organization was founded in 1972: (from left) Randall Mathis, Mary Jo McCorkle, H.B. "Hap" Arnold Jr., Dorothy Blevens, Carolyn Berry, Amy Jean Greene, Juanita Barnett, W.H. Halliburton and Keith Tudor.

vation of information has resulted in a cooperative effort with Ouachita Baptist University to house the Association's archival materials, which contain documents, photographs, maps, recordings, and compiled research.

Dissemination has dominated the Association's energies from the beginning. Serial publications include a quarterly newsletter and an award-winning annual journal. There are also miscellaneous publications such as driving tour brochures and volumes pertaining to particular parts of the county, and to genealogy, currently totaling over fifty titles. The largest special volumes have been a comprehensive county history and a five-volume inventory of the county's cemetery headstones. The most recent special publication is "This 'n That by Hal: A Collection of W.H. Hal-

lburton's News Features, 1909-1976." Monthly meetings are open to the public, and include programs on topics of general historical interest. For example, in February, representatives of the Bufaloes' Foundation will describe their work in Clark County, including the organization's efforts to preserve African American history. The Association participates in county fair events (parade, info booth) and holds other special programs, such as living history productions to depict life in earlier times. The group's largest and most visible undertaking, the Clark County Museum, preserves artifacts and memorabilia and displays it for all to enjoy.

While the Historical Association receives some sporadic funding from grants, most support for these activities comes from membership dues.

With \$25 regular dues, members receive a copy of the award-winning annual Clark County Historical Journal, the quarterly newsletter, and email notifications pertaining to meetings and programs. Members' names appear in the Journal. Life memberships and other levels of membership are available as well. Anyone interested in the history of Clark County may join by submitting dues to the CCHA at P.O. Box 516, Arkadelphia, 71923.

For more information pertaining to membership or the many publications offered by the Association, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum at the train depot (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).