

# Sequoyah National Research Center Newsletter

Fall 2015

## November Symposium honoring Native Veterans a Success

Saturday, November 14th, SNRC hosted “American Indians and Alaska Natives in America’s Wars,” a free half-day symposium, in partnership with the Arkansas History Commission. The symposium was held in celebration of Native American Heritage Month and in honor of Veterans Day observed on November 11th. The event was sponsored in part by a grant awarded by the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mary Jane Warde, noted historian and author, was the featured guest and delivered “The Destroying Hand of War” on the involvement of American Indians in the Civil War, more popularly remembered for their participation on the Confederate side, but also their participation on the side of the Union. SNRC’s archivist Erin Fehr presented on “Alaska Natives and Their World War II Service in the Alaska Territorial Guard,” followed by SNRC’s Associate Director Dr. Robert Sanderson on “Vietnam Warriors.” The sessions concluded with a discussion of “Resources for Studying Native Americans in America’s Wars” by Jane Wilkerson (Arkansas History Commission), Karen Russ (UALR’s Ottenheimer Library), and Daniel Littlefield (SNRC) found at each respective repository. The day concluded with refreshments and a book signing by Warde for her most recent publication *When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory* (University of Arkansas Press, 2013).

Attendees included educators, high school students, retirees, members of the archives/library/museum community, and other interested community members. Forty-eight people participated in the day’s activities. Staff compiled a companion booklet on Native American participation in America’s wars with a brief entry for each war from the Revolutionary War through present-day Iraq and Afghanistan in addition to a set of eight bookmarks with trivia on individual participants, including Ely Parker, Civil War general, and Van T. Barfoot, Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

If you would like a copy of the companion booklet, please contact Erin Fehr at [eh-fehr@ualr.edu](mailto:eh-fehr@ualr.edu) or via phone (501)569-8336.



Mary Jane Warde



# Newspaper Digitization Project Underway

The Sequoyah National Research Center has partnered with Adam Matthew, a digitization company headquartered in London, to begin digitization of the vast newspaper collections held by the Center. The initial steps have begun as we choose titles to include in the database and acquire permissions from copyright holders to secure digitization rights. This first phase of digitization aims to include 20-30 different titles published by tribes throughout the United States. The completed database will be offered through subscription by Adam Matthew and will be available at no cost to tribal colleges and universities. Newspapers will receive copies of the digital files in exchange for the release of digitization rights.

Since the Center's establishment in 1983 as a clearinghouse for Native newspapers and periodicals, our aim has been to acquire the most comprehensive collection of tribal publications and provide access to Indian Country in addition to researchers around the world. The digitization of these titles will allow better access to the collection to those unable to travel and will help preserve issues becoming fragile from age and environmental conditions.

For questions about specific titles included or how to become involved, contact Erin Fehr at ehfehr@ualr.edu or via phone (501)569-8336.



## Research on Native American Musicians

Beginning with Richard Henry Pratt in 1879, boarding schools became a systemized approach to the education of Native Americans. While students' education included expected lessons in English, geography, mathematics and literature, music was also a large part of the curriculum that included individual lessons and involvement in ensembles such as orchestra and marching band. Many students excelled in their musical endeavors at school and found avenues to continue their love of music after graduation. Bands of all kinds—marching, cornet, and brass—began appearing on reservations as a way for former boarding school students to continue playing their instruments such as flutes, trumpets, cornets and tubas. Bands, like the Navajo Nation Marching Band established in the 1930s by six former boarding school students, including Tribal Chairman Jacob C. Morgan and Arizona State Senator Arthur Hubbard, Sr., became ambassadors for their tribes and brought Native Americans center stage.

While musicians like Fred Cardin, the Quapaw violinist who traveled the Chautauqua Circuit, or Tsainina Redfeather Blackstone, the Creek/Cherokee vocalist who performed the lead in Charles Wakefield Cadman's opera *Shanewis*, are well-known, numerous other Native musicians graced the stage and shared their talents with audiences around the world. SNRC's archivist Erin Fehr's research is uncovering relatively unknown American Indian and Alaska Native musicians, who developed their boarding school music education into amateur, semi-professional and professional musical careers, marching across parade grounds and singing before international dignitaries and on world-class stages.

Our mission is to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans by collecting the written word, art and other forms of expression by Native Americans and creating a research atmosphere that invites indigenous peoples to make the Sequoyah National Research Center the archival home for their creative work.

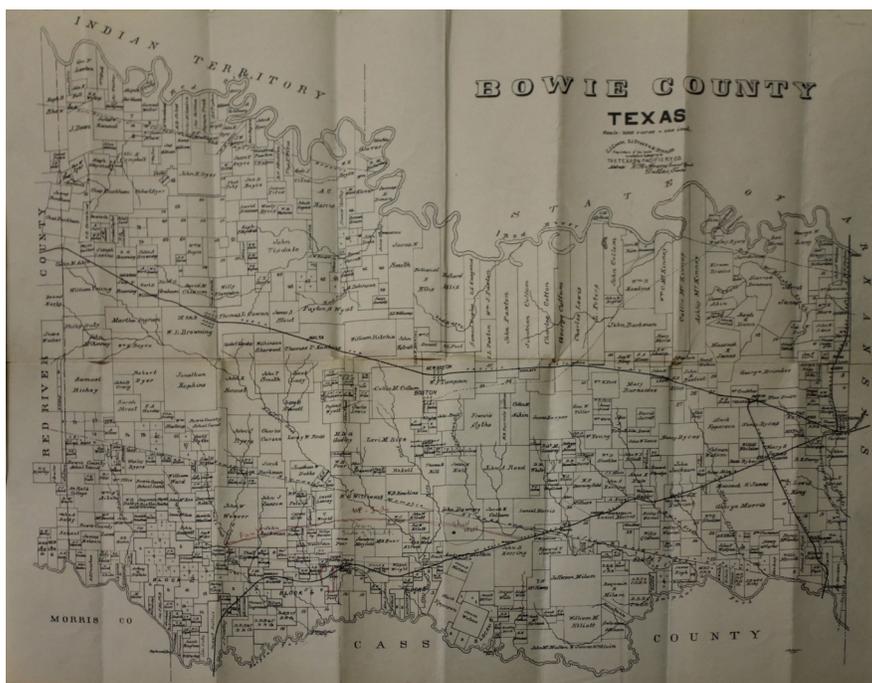
# Garrard Ardeneum Collection Update

Much of my time and effort thus far has been focused on the personal correspondence of Tom and Allece Garrard. The Garrards maintained a wide circle of friends. They also supported a number of causes, ranging from politics to cultural and charitable organizations. Because of their political support, the Garrards received letters and greeting cards from politicians such as Carl Albert (46<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the United States House of Representatives), Don Nickles (former United States Senator from Oklahoma), Charlie Wilson (former member of United States House of Representatives) and even Ronald Reagan (40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States). In addition, the Garrards' support for the arts led them to correspond with people such as Miguel and Yvonne Terekhov (founders of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance), Gloria Schumann (portrait artist), Wallace Tucker (astrophysicist, author, playwright) and Robert McCormick Adams (former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution).

In addition to correspondence, I have processed material related to the work Allece Garrard did for the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women. Mrs. Garrard was a member of this organization during her days as a student at the University of Oklahoma and continued her involvement with the organization throughout most of her life. Most notably, Mrs. Garrard planned, organized and executed the Arrowcraft Tour in 1968 that highlighted the work of the artists and craftspeople at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, the Pi Beta Phi-run school in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Affiliated with the University of Tennessee, the school expanded and took the name Arrowmont in 1970. The purpose of the Arrowcraft Tour was to garner attention and support for Arrowmont. The tour had stops all over the United States and even stopped in Canada and Mexico. Allece Garrard was also on the Board of Governors for the new Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. The collection contains several boxes of material related to Mrs. Garrard's work for Pi Beta Phi.



Don Nickles and family in front of the Oklahoma Capitol building, 1982



Bowie County, Texas map, 1907

Because of Tom Garrard's standing within the community and within his own family, he was entrusted with the estates of several of his family members. Among the material related to family estates, there are inventories of assets and possessions from the estates of both Jay and Alene Puterbaugh, his father, Frank Field Garrard, and his stepfather, Dr. S.E. Milliken. Dr. Milliken's estate files include an interesting map of survey tracts in Bowie County, Texas, before 1907 and land title abstracts that reach all the way back to Sam Houston.

As I continue my work with the Garrard Ardeneum Collection, I look forward to finding out more about the Garrards and sharing it with every one of you, so stay tuned! ~Zack Whitaker, Project Archivist

## Holiday Open House



Join us for our Annual Holiday Open House, Thursday, December 17th, 10am-2pm. Enjoy festive refreshments, visit with SNRC staff, and learn about the latest activities. We recently updated our archival display cases to include information on American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Military, featuring World War I, World War II, and the post-Vietnam wars and conflicts. If you haven't visited in a while, we would love to see you.



## Become a Friend of the Sequoyah National Research Center

### Annual membership dues:

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Make checks payable to:  
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Mail checks to:  
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Hours of Operation:  
Monday—Friday  
8:00am—5:00pm

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