Lawrence County Chamber Executive Secretary Kathy Bradley (from right) and Chamber Board members Kari Shanks, Mike Montgomery and Vickie Mitchell look at Lawrence County Sesquicentennial coins given to them by fellow board member Lloyd Clark, who is also president of the Lawrence County Historical Society. The county will mark its 200th anniversary in 2015.

Powhatan Historic State Park Superintendent Corinne Fletcher (left) visits with Lisa Perry, archival manager for NEARA, at the facility’s grand opening on Thursday.

Richard Davies, executive director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, speaks to a large crowd in the Powhatan Male and Female prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives.

Dave Erwin of Powhatan signs in at the grand opening celebration of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives on Thursday. A large crowd attended the festivities.

Powhatan Historic State Park’s Steve Saunders (right) shows James Mullins, park planner and historic preservation specialist with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, a hoop net tag dated 1986 that will be included in the time capsule at the new NEARA facility. “It’s not old now, but it will be when it’s opened,” Saunders said.

Dr. Wendy Richter (left), director of the Arkansas History Commission, visits with Catherine Richey of Eaton and Ethel Tompkins of Hoxie, members of the Lawrence County Historical Society, and Circuit Clerk Michelle Evans of Lynn in the lobby of the new NEARA facility at Powhatan.

Among the many on hand to help cut the ribbon at the new archives facility at Powhatan were (from left), Lawrence County Historical Society members Sue Whitmire, Ethel Tompkins and Lloyd Clark, Arkansas History Commissioner John Gill, Arkansas History Commission Director Dr. Wendy Richter, Director of Arkansas State Parks Greg Butts and Evelyn Flippo, former caretaker of many of the records that will be available at the facility.