

Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 8

Spring 2011

A Gathering of Historians to Discuss A Gathering Storm: Arkansas Goes to War

Scarlett O’Hara said, “War, war, war; this war talk’s spoiling all the fun at every party this spring.” But for Arkansas historians, war talk will be the highlight of the party at the seventieth annual Arkansas Historical Association Conference, which will be held April 14–16 in Little Rock.

Sessions

The conference features more than twenty presentations during the regular sessions, which will be held at the Historic Arkansas Museum and the Central Arkansas Library.

In addition to the Civil-War themed sessions, the conference includes sessions on Arkansas at war during other conflicts, as well as a section featuring presentations from graduate students from Arkansas institutions.

Vendors will have displays at the Historic Arkansas Museum.

Food

Luncheons will be held at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

POP QUIZ

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Cash **REGISTER**
- B. Heather **REGISTER** Zbinden
- C. Time to **REGISTER** for the 2011 AHA Conference

The correct answer is C. Register today for the upcoming AHA conference. The registration deadline has been extended to March 31.

and the Old State House Museum. Receptions will be held at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and the Clinton Presidential Library. The Awards Banquet will also be held at the Clinton Presidential Library.

The Friday luncheon features Paul Shackel from the University of Maryland, and the Saturday luncheon features Charley Sandage of the Arkansas Stories Project.

Tours

The conference also will feature two tours:

- Civil War historian and preservationist Mark Christ will lead a bus tour to sites associated with the Little Rock Campaign of 1863, including the Brownsville and Bayou Meto battlefields and the old U.S. Arsenal.
- Guided tours of Mount Holly Cemetery and Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery, two of Little Rock’s oldest cemeteries.

Registration for the tours will be at the conference on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special thanks go out to the conference co-chairs: Dana Simmons from the Clinton Presidential Library and Jamie Brandon from Southern Arkansas University. Also thanks to Blake Wintory from the Lakeport Plantation. This planning committee and its volunteers have worked hard to bring you a fun and educational conference.

For additional information and conference registration forms, visit the AHA website at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives Now Open at Powhatan

The new NorthEast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA) celebrated its grand opening on March 3, 2011. The facility, which is located on the grounds of Powhatan Historic State Park in Lawrence County, operates as a branch of the Arkansas History Commission.

Arkansas State Parks provided the funding for the design and construction of the \$809,107 facility and will provide on-going maintenance. The Arkansas History Commission will manage the day-to-day operations.

Architecture Plus, Inc. of Fort Smith designed the building to blend in with the existing historic buildings in Powhatan.

The new structure contains a fire-proof vault, an archival processing room, and a public research

room. The archive offers the public a variety of research resources related to northeast Arkansas, including letters, diaries, maps, photographs, newspapers, and broadsides, as well as books, periodicals, and other print resources.

The Lawrence County Historical Society donated 500 cubic feet of Lawrence County government records to NEARA. These county records are among Arkansas's earliest documentary resources.

NEARA is the second regional archive managed by the Arkansas History Commission. Its sister facility, the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA), was founded in 1978 and is located at Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County.

For additional information visit www.northeastarchives.org.



Visitors at the grand opening of the new NEARA facility

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Special Collections at the UA Libraries Is Dishing Up a New Journal

The University of Arkansas Libraries' Special Collections department recently launched *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*.

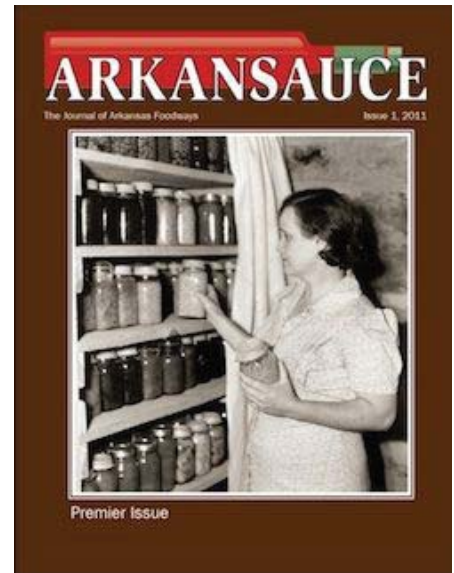
According to the launch press release, *Arkansauce* is a mix of popular and semi-scholarly articles illustrated with original documents, drawings and photographs. It focuses on food history, nutrition, cooking, customs, table manners, chefs, food producers and production, restaurants, cookbooks, recipes, menus for ordinary and special occasions, the culinary heritage of minority groups, immigrants, and specific geographic regions of Arkansas, food-related poetry, mythology, and literature.

Journalist Rex Nelson, author of Southern Fried blog, served as guest editor for the inaugural issue.

Arkansauce launched as an annual publication, but the staff has hopes of serving it up semi-annually.

Diane Worrell serves as managing editor, and is assisted by editorial board members Tom W. Dillard and Timothy G. Nutt. John G. and Dora J. Ragsdale, longtime supporters of Arkansas history, provided the funds to endow this new publication.

To receive a free subscription to this publication, send an e-mail to verobert@uark.edu.



Join the Arkansas Historical Association

Membership includes four issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* per year, as well as the Association's newsletter.

Membership Levels

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The Old State House during the Union occupation by the Third Minnesota Infantry in 1863–64. The building was home to the Confederate government until Union forces captured Little Rock in September 1863, leading the Confederate government to relocate to Washington in Hempstead County.

Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society

Arkansas Historical Association

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