

Newsletter

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Fall 2012

President's Message

As I write this column, we are in the midst of planning for next year's AHA conference in Helena-West Helena. Jamie Brandon, Mark Christ, and the fine staff at the Delta Cultural Center have done a wonderful job so far and the 2013 conference promises to be one of the best. The conference theme is "Claiming Freedom," which we are interpreting fairly broadly. So, the presentations will not only focus on President Lincoln's emancipation of slaves during the Civil War, but also the struggles of other groups of people throughout Arkansas's history. The conference will be held April 11-13, 2013, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Of course, more information will be sent to the membership as the date draws closer. Also, please consider nominating someone or a project for the Association's Award of Merit. Full nomination information can be found in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Speaking of award winners, I am saddened to report that documentary filmmaker Jack Hill unexpectedly passed way in July. As you may remember, the Association, at our most recent conference, presented Jack with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering documentaries on various Arkansas topics. Before



AHA President Tim Nutt

his death, he was working on a film on the Civil War in Arkansas, and I am pleased to report that Dale Carpenter at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville has been tasked to finish the project. Jack will be missed, but his legacy will live on through the myriad of films he produced.

As always, the Association is grateful to Nathania Sawyer and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies for their hard work in producing two issues of the AHA Newsletter during the year. If you have news of interest to the historical community, such as up-

coming events, promotions, or awards, please contact Nathania at nsawyer@cals.org for possible placement in the newsletter.

I also want to thank Donna Ludlow, the Association's employee and manager of our website. In addition to her duties with the website, Donna works with the local arrangements committee for the annual conference and handles the registration materials.

Thank you all for your contributions to the Association. If you have any ideas on how the Board of Trustees can better serve the membership, please contact me at timn@uark.edu.

Do You Have What It Takes to Win? 2013 AHA Awards Deadlines Are Approaching

Each year, the Arkansas Historical Association recognizes excellence in the field of Arkansas history, ranging from teachers, to published works, to a variety of projects and initiatives.

James H. Atkinson Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Arkansas History (\$1,000 and a framed certificate): given to an elementary or secondary school teacher who teaches a course in Arkansas history. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2013.

Susannah DeBlack Award (\$200 and a framed certificate): given for the best book or series of books for young readers (grades K-8) on an Arkansas history-related topic published within the preceding two years. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2013.

Charles O. Durnett Award (\$250 and a framed certificate): given for the best manuscript article on some aspect of Arkansas's Civil War history—whether military, social, economic, or cultural. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2013.

James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award (\$250 and a framed certificate): given for the best master's thesis or doctoral dissertation addressing some aspect of the state's history. Deadline for entries is January 1, 2013.

Violet B. Gingles Award (\$500 and a framed certificate): given for the best manuscript article on any Arkansas history topic. The article can deal with any phase of the history of the state or with any individual connected with its past. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2013.

J. G. Ragsdale Book Award (\$1,000 and a framed certificate): given for the best book-length historical study (nonfiction) of any aspect of Arkansas history. Deadline for entries is January 1, 2013.

Lucille Westbrook Local History Award (\$1,000 and a framed certificate): given for the best manuscript article on a local Arkansas topic. The article must deal with some phase of neighborhood, city, county, or regional history or some person associated with local Arkansas history. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2013.

Walter L. Brown Awards: The AHA sponsors an awards program for Arkansas county and local historical journals. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2013. Awards are given for:

Arkansas Historical Association

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timn@uark.edu

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nsawyer@cals.org

- Best County or Local Journal—\$100 and certificate
- Honorable Mention (runner-up) for Best County or Local Journal—certificate
- Best Article in a County or Local Journal—\$100 and certificate
- Best Biography, Autobiography, or Memoir—certificate
- Best Business History—certificate
- Best Church History—certificate
- Best Community History—certificate
- Best Edited Document—certificate
- Best Family History—certificate
- Best School History—certificate
- Best Use of Graphics in a Journal—certificate



For complete information about applying for annual awards, visit the Arkansas Historical Association's web page at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

Susie Pryor Award (\$1,000): sponsored by the Arkansas Women's History Institute; given for the best unpublished essay on topics in Arkansas women's history. Deadline for entries is February 15, 2013. For more information about the award, visit the Arkansas Women's History Institute website at www.arkansaswomen.org.

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

- Individual\$20
 - Individual, two year.....\$35
 - Family.....\$30
 - Family, two year.....\$45
 - Foreign\$30
 - Student.....\$15
 - Contributing\$50
 - Sustaining.....\$100
 - Supporting\$200
 - Life Membership.....\$500
(payable over three years)
 - Permanent Membership.....\$1,000
(payable over five years)
- One-Year Corporate/Business Memberships
- Sponsor.....\$100
 - Patron\$500
 - Benefactor\$1,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send this form along with payment to:
Arkansas Historical Association
History Department, Old Main 416
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Lifetime Achievement Awards



Jack Hill for his pioneering work in creating a documentary history of Arkansas.



James J. Johnston for his dedication to the study of the Civil War and the presentation of Ozarks history.



James Logan Morgan for his invaluable contribution to the study of local history and the publication of Arkansas's historical records.



Bobby Roberts for his service to the general public and scholars in promoting the study and preservation of Arkansas history.



Grif Stockley for his pioneering investigations of Arkansas's racial history.

2012 AHA Awards Banquet April 13, 2012 — Fayetteville, Arkansas

In addition to the annual awards, AHA President Laura Miller presented five Lifetime Achievement Awards recognizing long-term contributions to the history community (see sidebar) as well as a Diamond Award recognizing the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission for promoting public awareness and study of the Civil War in Arkansas through a remarkable variety of initiatives.

Diamond Award

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Award of Merit

Arkansas History Commission

J. G. Ragsdale Book Award

Jeannie Whayne

Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South

Lucille Westbrook Award

Sarah Riva

“Desegregating Downtown Little Rock: The Field Reports of SNCC Worker William “Bill” Hansen, October 23 to December 3, 1962”

Violet B. Gingles Award

Story Matkin-Rawn

“Arkansas Another Africa”:

The Origins of African American Migration to the Natural State

Charles O. Durnett Award

David E. Casto

“We Are All Right but May Need Assistance: The 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry & a Forgotten Skirmish Near Augusta.”

James L. Foster & Billy W. Beason Award

Christopher W. Branam

“The Africans Have Taken Arkansas”: Political Activities of African-American Members of the Arkansas Legislature, 1868-73.”

Susie Pryor Award in Arkansas Women's History

John Lewis Adams

“The Marriage of Daisy and L. C. Bates and the Political Uses of Secrecy”

**Walter L. Brown County and
Local Journal Awards**

Best County or Local Journal

The Journal

Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.
Carole Barger, Managing Editor
Pulaski County Historical Review
Pulaski County Historical Society

Honorable Mention

The Record

Garland County Historical Society
Elizabeth Robbins, Editor

Best Article

Geraldine A. Lilly

“J. H. Cottrell, Arkansas Politician:
Portrait of a ‘Southern Moderate’
1954-1966”

Pulaski County Historical Review,
Pulaski County Historical Society

Best Use of Graphics

Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin
Grand Prairie Historical Society
Glenn Mosenthin, Editor

**Best Biography, Autobiography,
or Memoir**

Steven Kite

“Alphonso Trent: Influential Man
of Music and Local Legend”

The Journal

Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.

Best Business History

Sheilla Lampkin

“History of the Tomato Industry
in Drew County”

Drew County Historical Journal
Drew County Historical Society

Best Church History

Judy Webb Hubbell

“The Old Florence Cumberland
Presbyterian Church”

Drew County Historical Journal
Drew County Historical Society



Jane Hooker, Dr. Wendy Richter, and Anna Pfeifler
accepting for the Arkansas History Commission



Jeannie Whayne



Story Matkin-Rawn



Christopher Branam



Billy Higgins accepting for *The Journal*

see Awards, page 6

Awards, continued from page 5

Best Community History

Gena Seidenschwarz

“Slovak: Proud Settlement
on Grand Prairie”

Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin
Grand Prairie Historical Society

Best Edited Document

Carole Barger

“Marvel Rhyne: Letters to Joe”
The Journal

Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.

Best Family History

Jana Cowgill

“The Tapestry: Hall, Wayland,
Skidmore, and Cowgill Families”

The Izard County Historian
Izard County Historical and
Genealogical Society

Best School History

Dyan Bohnert

“Stahley School: As Remembered
by Lela Shumard”

Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin
Grand Prairie Historical Society



Elizabeth Robbins accepting
for *The Record*



Steven Kite



Sheilla Lampkin



Judy Webb Hubbell

Mark your calendar
for the
2013 AHA Conference

The seventy-second annual
conference will be held in
Helena-West Helena on
April 11-13, 2013.

The theme is “Claiming
Freedom” as the AHA
conference continues
its look at the Civil War
in Arkansas.



Jana Cowgill



Dyan Bohnert