

Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 1

Spring 2012

The Sessions! The Networking! The Tours! Return of the AHA Annual Conference Coming soon to a town near you

Scores of historians will come together on April 12-14 to discuss “A Divided Arkansas” at the 71st Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association.

This year’s conference, which will be held in Fayetteville, includes twenty-seven presentations during the regular sessions as well as the following highlights.

Keynote Addresses:

Friday—“Sweet Fanny Adams!: How the Civil War in the West Changed the Way the World Eats Food” presented by Scott Reynolds Nelson from the College of William and Mary.

Saturday—“Civil War Guerrillas: Then and Now” presented by Daniel Sutherland from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Networking:

Thursday—Reception at the Headquarters House on Dickson Street sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society and Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries.

POP QUIZ

Choose the correct answer:

- A. National **REGISTER** of Historic Places
- B. Heather **REGISTER** Zbinden
- C. Time to **REGISTER** for the 2012 AHA Conference

The correct answer is C. **Register today** for the upcoming AHA conference.

The deadline for registration is March 29, 2012.

Friday—Reception at the UARK Bowl on Dickson Street sponsored by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

Friday Tours:

Pea Ridge National Battlefield Park—Pea Ridge was one of the first great engagements of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi, and the battlefield is now a National Military Park. This tour will be a guided circuit of the battlefield led by a National Park Service interpreter.

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park—Prairie Grove was the last major Civil War battle fought in northwest Arkansas. It has been preserved and interpreted by Arkansas State Parks and is one of the most intact battlefields in the United States. William Shea, author of the recent *Fields of Blood: The Prairie Grove Campaign*, will guide a tour of the battlefield.

Another highlight of the conference is the annual awards banquet, when the AHA honors the people and projects that continue to advance our knowledge and appreciation of our state's history and heritage.

Carl Drexler, station assistant at the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Southern Arkansas University Research Station, served as program chair. Jamie Brandon, station archaeologist at the same office, oversaw local arrangements and served as chair of the Annual

Conference Committee. Jim Rees and Vince Chadick assisted with making local arrangements.

Please take a moment to thank this team as well as all the other people and organizations who have volunteered time, funding, and resources.

Now it is up to you. Watch your mail for the conference packet or visit the AHA website at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org for more details and registration forms.

August 9-11, 2012

"An Empire in Extent": The Civil War West of the Mississippi

The National Park Service is partnering with the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to present a special symposium on the Civil War west of the Mississippi, exploring one of the most fascinating yet least studied areas of the war. The event will be held at the University of Arkansas Global Campus in Fayetteville.

Topics include the vital issues that were at stake and the Civil War experiences of people living west of the Mississippi River, including Arkansas. Nationally known scholars from across the country will offer presentations on the war,

life on the home front, and the experiences of the diverse peoples of the Trans-Mississippi—including American Indians and women.

In addition, historians will discuss the legacy of the Civil War west of the Mississippi and its meaning today. The symposium also will include guided tours to Pea Ridge National Military Park and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

Information about the symposium and registration will be available on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com.

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Editor's Note

Who's Next?

by Nathania Sawyer

A recent thread on the Arkansas History Listserv made me start thinking. In one of the many farewell messages to Tom Dillard (who recently retired from the University of Arkansas), Michael Dougan said—as only Michael Dougan can, “I can remember Tom from his earliest days in the Arkansas Historical Association as the ring-leader of the ‘Young Turks,’ who sought to rescue the Association from the palsied paws of patriarchal paralysis and drag the organization into some higher, more scholarly and more popular elevations. I remember him at Parks and Tourism insisting that history is important and parks ought to get it right...”



from. So, I'm throwing these questions out to you. Who stands out in your mind from this new generation of people just starting to work in the field of Arkansas history? Which students have done research that excites you? Who has the right stuff to keep us from becoming complacent and to push the field forward?

Inquiring minds (at least mine) want to know.

So, drop me a note with your thoughts about who they are, and why you think so. I hope to start featuring some of these people in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Dougan's comments made me start wondering who the up-and-comers are and where they are coming

You can contact me at nsawyer@cals.org or (501) 320-5752.

Join the Arkansas Historical Association

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

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In March 1976, a tornado swept through Cabot (Lonoke County) causing millions of dollars of damage and leaving substantial wreckage as shown in this photo. Within two years, the town had rebuilt and launched an annual festival, called CabotFest, to celebrate the recovery.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of American History, Cabot Public Schools.

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