



Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter

VOLUME 31, No. 1

SPRING 2014

Historic Washington Hosts 73rd Annual Conference, April 3-5

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Historic Washington State Park will host the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association in Washington, Arkansas, April 3-5, 2014.

This year's conference theme is "The Home Front."

Sessions will highlight the Arkansas Civil War home front, as well as WWII, the Cold War, and Reconstruction. Other highlights include:

Keynote Addresses: *Friday*—Dr. Jamie Brandon, "Archeologies of the Home Front: Excavations at Historic Washington State Park"

Saturday—Dr. Tom DeBlack, "Between the Hawk and the Buzzard": The Arkansas

Home Front in the Civil War"

Receptions: *Thursday*—President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home (117 S. Hervey St. in Hope)

Friday—Woodlawn House (HWSP)

Banquet & Awards

Presentation: WPA Gymnasium (HWSP)

Friday Tours: Civil War Encampments, Trenches and Dooley's Ferry led by Keenan Williams and Carl Drexler (limited to 40).

Southwest Proving Grounds led by Peggy Lloyd (limited to 25).

Tour of Historic Washington State Park led by park staff.

Members should have received



Historic Washington State Park includes thirty historic buildings, including the 1836 Hempstead County Courthouse, where the Confederate State Legislature held its 1864 session. *Courtesy of Historic Washington State Park*

See CONFERENCE, page 2

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington Arkansas

In October 2005, the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archive (SARA) became the first regional branch of the Arkansas History Commission. SARA, located on the grounds of Historic Washington State Park, is a research facility that collects and preserves historic resources primarily documenting Southwest Arkansas.

Peggy Lloyd, SARA's director since November 2005, said "The Red River Valley and southwest Arkansas are understudied. SARA's collection hopes to preserve the area's history and to promote the scholarly study of a



Southwest Regional Archives is located on the grounds of Historic Washington State Park. The former Washington Elementary School is shared with the collections staff of the State Park. *Courtesy of Peggy Lloyd*

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73rd Annual Conference, cont. from page 1

registration packets in the mail. This year registration and payment (PayPal) are available on the Association's website, <http://www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org>.

Accommodations for the conference will be in Hope, Arkansas, eight miles south of Washington, at the Hampton Inn and Suites and the Holiday Inn Express.

Local arrangements were organized by Josh Williams and Leita Spears, both staff of Historic Washington State Park; and Peggy Lloyd, Director of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives. Mark Christ, Community Outreach Director at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, served as program chair and Josh Williams, Curator at Historic Washington State Park served as the chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

Sponsors for the two receptions include Arkansas's Great Southwest, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives Foundation, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.

The conference is also supported through funds from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Walter Brown, AHA Leader, Passes

Walter Lee Brown, who served the AHA for more than three decades as secretary-treasurer and editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, died on Friday, Jan. 17, in Fayetteville. He was 89.

Brown was a member of the history faculty at the University of Arkansas from 1954 to 1990. Brown edited the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* from 1958 to 1990 and served as secretary-treasurer from 1955 to 1990. Under his leadership the *Quarterly* published some of the earliest scholarship on Arkansas's African-American and civil rights history.

"Anyone interested in Arkansas's history is deeply in debt to Walter L. Brown," said Patrick G. Williams, associate professor of history at the U of A and current editor of the *Quarterly*. "Under his leadership, the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* welcomed fresh perspectives and changing methodologies and, by the time of his retirement, had become one of the nation's most respected and scholarly state history journals."



Walter Lee Brown edited the *AHQ* from 1958 to 1990 and served as secretary-treasurer from 1955 to 1990.

In 1966, while Orval Faubus was still Arkansas's governor, Brown published Numan Bartley's hard-hitting examination of the Little Rock desegregation crisis.

As secretary-treasurer, Brown oversaw the Association's daily operations through thick and thin. Also a respected scholar, Brown wrote the definitive biography of Albert Pike, a colorful figure of central importance to the politics and culture of antebellum and Civil War-era Arkansas. Brown, a native of Texas, served in World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps and earned a doctorate at the University of Texas.

The family suggests donations be made to the Walter Lee Brown Scottish Rite Scholarship in History at the U of A.

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Announcements and Upcoming Conferences

- 25th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, June 6 & 7, Leslie & Marshall, Arkansas. Sponsored by the Searcy County Historical Society, the fair offers a “genealogical swap meet” and presentations about Civil War related materials in archives around the state. For more information visit, <http://ancestorfair.us> or contact Shirley Gray at shirleysdream@windstream.net.
- The Jackson County Historical Society announces the Joyce Taylor Worthen Prize in Jackson County (Arkansas) History. The prize (\$1,000) will be rewarded to an undergraduate or graduate student writing on Jackson County ‘s history (excluding the past 50 years). Submissions should be submitted by May 1 to ejacow@aol.com. For more information contact the Jackson County Historical Society.
- The University of Arkansas—Fort Smith will host the 2014 Mid-America Conference on History, September 18-20. Paper proposals on any aspect of history are due May 15. Send a short C.V. and a 200 word or less abstract to bob.willoughby@uafs.edu. Any questions can be sent to the same address.
- The Arkansas Genealogical Society will host a 2014 Spring Workshop at the Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock on May 3 and host a 2014 Fall Conference at the Benton Event Center in Benton on September 19 & 20. For more information, check the Society’s website at <http://agsgenealogy.org>, or contact George Mitchell at George@pbark.com, or Russell Baker atgobgob3@mindspring.com.
- Historic Washington State Park will host the 8th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium on July 26. The Symposium will highlight Civil War battles in the Great Bend Region of the Red River. Teachers can receive up to twelve professional development hours. Register by July 23. Call 870-983-2684 or email HistoricWashington@arkansas.com for more information and fees.

SARA cont. from page 1

distinct region.” The archive has thousands of photographs, family papers and histories, local and regional papers on microfilm, maps and an extensive vertical file.

SARA’s origins date to 1978, when three organizations—the Hempstead County Historical Society, Old Washington State Park, and the Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation—joined to serve the history needs of the twelve counties that were formed out of the original Hempstead County—Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union.

SARA is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.



Photo Left: Manuscript storage at SARA. In addition to manuscript collections, the archive holds over 1750 family histories, more than 2000 vertical files, a sizeable small manuscript collection, and hundreds of rare books and maps. *Courtesy of Southwest Regional Archives*

Photo Right: SARA holds an extensive collection of photographs, like this bridal photo from the Nan Brown Collection. Taken in June 1888, Miss Frances Conway Turner, age 19, was the granddaughter of James Sevier Conway, Arkansas’s first governor. She married John Claude Dugger, age 30, of Washington on June 6, 1888. John Claude worked as a deputy clerk in the courthouse then at Washington and as an abstractor. He died in 1895, while Frances (“Frankie”) lived until 1911. *Courtesy of Southwest Regional Archives*



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, one year.....\$20
- ☐ Individual, two year.....\$35
- ☐ Family, one year.....\$30
- ☐ Family, two year.....\$45
- ☐ Foreign, one year.....\$30
- ☐ Student, one year.....\$15
- ☐ Contributing, one year.....\$50
- ☐ Sustaining, one year.....\$100
- ☐ Supporting, one year.....\$200
- ☐ Life Membership.....\$500
(payable over three years)
- ☐ Permanent Membership.....\$1000
(payable over five years)

One-Year Corporate/Business Memberships

- ☐ Sponsor.....\$100
- ☐ Patron.....\$500
- ☐ Benefactor.....\$1000

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

Renewal and new memberships can be paid online using Paypal; visit the AHA website <http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org> and click "Membership."

1874 Hempstead County Courthouse, Historic Washington State Park



The 1874 Hempstead County Courthouse was constructed by contractor E. P. Treadway of Camden from designs prepared by Green & Sons of Little Rock. *Courtesy of Historic Washington State Park*

The 73rd Annual Conference of the AHA will begin in Hempstead County's 1874 Courthouse. The building was completed for the county just as Reconstruction in Arkansas was ending. Built in the Italianate architecture style, it served as the county courthouse until 1939. That year the county seat moved to nearby Hope and the 1874 Courthouse then housed the Washington Public School District until the 1970s. In 1973, the 1874 Courthouse became part of a new state park, Old Washington Historic State Park. Since that time, the building has served as the visitor and welcome center of the park providing orientation to around 75,000 visitors annually. The park continues to interpret the nineteenth-century history of the town of Washington and the impact it made on Arkansas and regional history. For more information, you can visit the park website at <http://www.historicwashingtonstatepark.com>.

President's Report to Membership 2014



AHA President Tim Nutt

I am pleased to provide this report to the membership on the activities of the Arkansas Historical Association during 2013, as we convene for our annual conference. I appreciate the City of Washington and Historic Washington State Park for hosting us this year. I also want to especially thank Josh Williams and others on the Annual Conference Committee for pulling together what promises to be another wonderful gathering. With this conference, some of our board members' terms are expiring, so, at this time, I want to thank Jajuan Johnson, Jamie Brandon, Vince Chadick, Mark Christ, Cherisse Jones-Branch, and Peggy Lloyd for their hard work and dedication to the Association.

Last year's conference in Helena-West Helena was a resounding success, and I appreciate the efforts of Jamie Brandon for chairing the Local Arrangements Committee, Mark Christ for serving as Program Chair, and for the many fine folks and institutions in Helena-West Helena who welcomed us and made our visit so enjoyable. A special thanks to the

Delta Cultural Center and Arkansas State University Heritage Sites for hosting and sponsoring the opening reception at the historic Moore-Horner House. The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System sponsored its annual pre-banquet reception, and the Arkansas Humanities Council continues to underwrite the conference. The Association appreciates these organizations' continued support. I also want to congratulate all the winners recognized at last year's awards banquet and listed in last summer's *Quarterly*. Roy Reed was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as a reporter, biographer, and historian. Congratulations to you all.

The health of the Association continues to be strong and rebound from the economic woes of a few years ago. Bob Razer continues to do an excellent job as chair of the Finance Committee. Other members of the committee included Vince Chadick and Joe Key, assisted ably by the Association's Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Williams. The membership in the Association also continues to remain strong, although we are always looking to increase our numbers. It has been stated numerous times that the dues for the Arkansas Historical Association are low compared to those of other state and regional historical organizations and that still remains true. I encourage you to recommend the Association to a friend, or better yet, buy a gift membership.

Under the strong leadership of Patrick Williams, the Association's editorial staff continues to produce excellent issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Last year, the *Quarterly* featured articles on the rise of the poultry processing industry in El Dorado, racial cleansing in the Arkansas River Valley, desegregation of Arkansas government and the West Memphis police, among many other fine works.

Last year AHA trustee Blake Wintory assumed editorship of the *AHA Newsletter* and produced issues which were both informative and interesting. The editorial cupboard though does not stay full, and Blake needs assistance in filling the March and October issues with news stories. Please help Blake out by sending him information about your institution's activities or other historical notes. His email address is bwintory@astate.edu.

Sadly, the Association lost some longtime and stalwart members last year, including Dr. C. Fred Williams, Carolyn LeMaster, Dr. Cal Ledbetter, Sam Boyce, and Dr. Walter L. Brown. All of them made significant contributions to Arkansas history and will be missed. On behalf of the Association, I send condolences to their families.

Thank you all for your support of Arkansas history and the Association.

Tim Nutt



During World War II, the federal government used the Southwest Proving Ground in Hempstead County to test ammunition like the 105mm artillery piece. The caption of this photo reads, "The last gun fired at the Proving Ground — August 31, 1945." The ladies, all Proving Ground employees, are (L to R) Annie Sue Andres of Hope, AR, Ernestine "Teeny" Crutchfield of Nashville, AR, Bertha Sparks of Tyler, TX, Floy Stanley (hometown unknown), Mary Margaret Haynes of Washington, AR, Mary Jane Hearn of Hope, AR, Vera Moses of McCaskill, AR, and Mattie T. Wilson of Washington, AR. *Courtesy of Peggy Lloyd*