



Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter

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WINTER 2015

AHA Offers Student Scholarships for 2016 Conference

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The Arkansas Historical Association plans to award travel grants to a college student from each of the state's four congressional districts. The grants of up to \$300 will cover expenses of attending the 75th Annual AHA Conference in Little Rock, April 21-23. Undergraduate or graduate students should apply with a letter stating how conference attendance would benefit them and a separate letter of support from a faculty member. Applications should be mailed to:

Student Scholarship Program
Arkansas Historical Association
416 Old Main
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

All applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2016.

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Wraps up 150th

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission completed eight years of work commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Arkansas. The commission, created in 2007 by Act 635 of the General Assembly, sought "to support a statewide observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War that is educational, comprehensive and inclusive." The eleven members of the commission included several current and former officers of the Arkansas Historical Association, including AHA President Tim Nutt, Laura Miller, Mark Christ, Blake Wintory, Jamie Brandon, and George Lankford.

The commission, chaired by Tommy Dupree of Jacksonville and coordinated by Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, reached thousands as it recalled Arkansas's role in the Civil War through re-enactments, exhibits, radio spots, symposia, markers, a passport program, audio tours, and other means.

Preliminary numbers show the commission sanctioned over 700 events involving over 300,000 participants. The passport program



Grants provided by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission supported events throughout the state. Two such grants to the Onachita Historical Society helped bring the First Kansas re-enactors to ceremonies at Poison Spring State Park on April 19, 2014. (Courtesy of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission)

Little Rock to host 75th Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the Arkansas Historical Association's 75th annual conference, April 21-23, in downtown Little Rock. Friday sessions and meals will take place at Albert Pike Memorial Temple, a stunningly impressive building both architecturally and historically. Saturday sessions move to Christ Church nearby. The current building (constructed of Arkansas native stone) was dedicated in 1941, but the congregation traces its roots to 1839.

Thirty-one presentations have been selected, all focusing on the conference theme, "Arkansas since 1941: Celebrating 75 Years of the AHA." To whet your appetite, here are a few of the presentation topics:

"Just and Righteous Causes": Rabbi Ira Sanders and Civil Rights in Little Rock, 1948-1958

"Unjustified Expectations of Magic": Agricultural Adoption of DDT and Arkansas Agricultural Experts' Alternative to Blanket Chemical Applications

Excavating Ba'Hât: Caddo Archaeology along the Great Bend of the Red River since the 1940s

The War on Poverty and the Shaping of New Anti-Government Discourse in the Arkansas Ozarks

The Arkansas Travelers Football Team

The Arkansas Twist: How Black and White Music Collided on the Highway to Memphis

The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas

Two guest speakers are scheduled for our Friday and Saturday luncheons: Dr. LaGuana Gray, author of *We Just Keep Running the Line: Black Southern Women and the Poultry Processing Industry* (LSU Press, 2014), and Beth Brickell, writer, actor, political organizer, and native Arkansan. There will also be a panel discussion by AHA past presidents.

Local arrangements chair Rachel Silva is busy finalizing the details for the Friday afternoon tours. She promises fun and educational explorations of the Little Rock environs.

Conference registration materials will be mailed in early February. Questions? Contact AHA conference chair Susan Young, syoung@springdale.ark.gov.

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Announcements and Upcoming Conferences

- The UALR [Center for Arkansas History and Culture](#) (CAHC) will hold three workshops titled, “Teaching a Web of Arkansas History” in the Spring and Summer (March 8, June 11, and August 31). Open to professionals in education, museums, archives, and libraries, the workshops will offer training in how to create a web-based exhibit with historical images. Each workshop is limited to 10 participants. Request an application from cahc@ualr.edu. Applications and a letter of support from a supervisor are due by February 12, 2016.
- Peggy Lloyd, Archival Manager at the Southwest Regional Archives (SARA) in Washington, retired in December 2015. Serving in that role since 2005, Peggy is a former AHA board member and also led the Prescott Museum for many years. A reception, sponsored by the SARA Foundation, honoring her work will take place at the WPA Gym, Historic Washington State Park on Saturday, January 30, 2016, beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- The Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission will be hosting a symposium titled “Little Rock School Desegregation: From Then to Now” on Saturday, February 6, at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The symposium will feature four speakers: Dr. John Kirk, Dr. James Ross, Dr. Felicia Hobbs, and Representative John Walker. Please register by February 2. For more information about the symposium and to register, contact the AHC at history.commission@arkansas.gov or call 501-682-6900.
- The Old State House Museum in Little Rock will open a new exhibit—*Cabinet of Curiosities: Treasures from the University of Arkansas Museum Collection*— on March 12, 2016. The University of Arkansas Museum closed to the public in 2003, and Cabinet of Curiosities will be the first time many of these artifacts have been on exhibit since the closing. During February, museum professionals will use the historic 1885 House of Representatives room to begin sorting and unpacking the artifacts in public view, before the exhibit opens, which will bring behind-the-scenes museum work to the forefront.
- The AHA Board is seeking photographs of past AHA conferences for the upcoming 75th Annual Conference in Little Rock. If you have any photographs, please contact board member Susan Young, syoung@springdalear.gov.



AHA Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Williams and the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* hit the road, visiting the Southern Historical Association in Little Rock, November 12-15, and the American Historical Association in Atlanta, January 7-10. Alongside recent issues of the *AHQ*, Williams distributed *AHQ* matchbooks celebrating “fine scholarship since 1942.”

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."

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial cont. from page 1

highlighted 23 Civil War sites in the state, and 219 Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Road Warriors (including 26 non-Arkansans) filled their passports, receiving a Sesquicentennial coin or patch. A total of 143 Civil War markers were erected, with at least one in each of Arkansas's 75 counties. The commission produced 122 podcasts with local scholars and 195 Civil War minutes aired on public radio. An hour-long film, sponsored by the commission, aired on AETN. The commission's website hosted the podcasts and radio minutes and also included other resources for Civil War research and teaching: bibliography, timeline, battle database, teacher materials and student projects, and a list of archival material.

A final update to www.arkansascivilwar150.com will come in February with a concluding report on the commission's work. The website will then be archived as part of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's website. The commission's labors are sure to live on to inspire learning and scholarship for years to come.



The commission's successful Civil War marker program was initially funded by a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service's Preserve America program. The commission approved markers in all 75 counties, including this one at the Lakeport Plantation in Chicot County.
(Courtesy of the Lakeport Plantation)

AHA Awards

Each year the Arkansas Historical Association recognizes the best teaching, writing, and scholarship in Arkansas history. This year the AHA welcomes two additional awards: the Tom Dillard Advocacy Award and the John William Graves Book Award. The Charles O. Durnett award has also been extended for an additional year. For a complete list of requirements and nomination forms, visit the AHA website, arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

James H. Atkinson Award for Teaching of Arkansas History

For K-12 teachers; \$1,000 prize; deadline March 1, 2016.

Susannah DeBlack Award

Honors best book on Arkansas history for a young audience; \$200 prize; deadline February 1, 2016.

Charles O. Durnett Award

Best manuscript on Arkansas Civil War history; \$250 prize; deadline February 1, 2016. — Final Year

J. G. Ragsdale Book Award

Best book-length nonfiction study of Arkansas history published in 2014 or 2015; \$1,000 prize; deadline January 1, 2016.

Lucille Westbrook Local History Award

Best manuscript article on a local Arkansas subject; \$1,000 prize; deadline February 1, 2016.

Violet B. Gingles Award

Best manuscript on any Arkansas topic; \$500 prize; deadline February 1, 2016.

James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award

Best master's thesis or doctoral dissertation that addresses some aspect of Arkansas's history; \$250 prize; deadline January 1, 2016.

Tom Dillard Advocacy Award

Bestowed upon a person or organization who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to promoting the study, appreciation, preservation, and dissemination of Arkansas history; \$300 prize; deadline February 1, 2016.

John William Graves Book Award

Best book-length non-fiction study focusing on history of race relations in Arkansas published in 2014 or 2015;



Three Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented at the 2015 conference in West Memphis. Pictured above, AHA President Tim Nutt hands awards to winners Mark Christ (l) and Dr. Tom DeBlack (r). Pictured with DeBlack is Dr. Jeannie Whyne, DeBlack's mentor and 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner. William L. Shea was also honored.

\$1,000 prize (biennially); deadline January 1, 2016

Diamond Award

Recognizes exceptional contribution to the study, preservation, or promotion of Arkansas history by an institution or individual. Nominations must be made through an AHA Board member; deadline December 1, 2016.

NEARA Award

Best manuscript using primary and archival records, particularly the Lawrence County territorial papers (1815-1836), from the NorthEast Arkansas Regional Archives in Powhatan; \$1,000 prize; deadline February 1, 2016.

Walter L. Brown Awards for Arkansas County and Local Historical Journals

Deadlines February 1, 2016

- Best County or Local Journal; \$100 prize
- Best Article in a County or Local Journal; \$100 prize
- Best Biography, Autobiography or Memoir
- Best Family History
- Best Church History
- Best Community History
- Best School History
- Best Business History
- Best Edited Documents
- Best Use of Graphics
- Best Newsletter



The Hotel Marion hosted the inaugural meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association on February 22, 1941. The association met many times at the Hotel Marion including in 1952, 1966, and 1969. Designed by George R. Mann and built by Herman Kahn, the hotel was demolished in 1980 to make way for the Excelsior Hotel and a convention center. A plaque commemorating the formation of the AHA at the Hotel Marion was placed on the site in 1966 and then at the new Excelsior. However, the plaque seems to have been lost, perhaps around 2002 during remodeling for the Peabody Hotel. This ca. 1949 photograph is *courtesy of Arkansas Municipal League*.