



Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter

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SPRING 2016

75th Annual Conference in Little Rock, April 21-23

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The City of Little Rock will host the 75th Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association, April 21-23, 2016.

This year's conference highlights people and events that helped shape Arkansas history during the last seventy-five years. Sessions will tackle a range of subjects: politics, industry, sports, World War II, and agriculture. Highlights include:

Keynote Addresses: *Friday*—Dr. LaGuana Gray, “The Rise of Industry in Post-World War II South Arkansas”

Saturday—Beth Brickell, “The Most Widely Publicized Mystery in Arkansas History”



The Albert Pike Memorial Temple will host Friday's conference sessions and the evening's reception and awards banquet. The expansive Neoclassical temple was designed by the Little Rock firm of Mann and Stern. Completed in 1924, it was remodeled under architect Bruce R. Anderson in 1952 following a fire. *Courtesy of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.*

See Conference, page 2

Books Received by the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*

Every year, the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* receives dozens of books from publishers for review. While not all of them are reviewed, most that relate to Arkansas's history are. Below are books recently received by the *AHQ*:

Cahill, Bernadette. *Arkansas Women and the Right to Vote: The Little Rock Campaigns, 1868-1920*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2015.

Collins, Janelle, ed. *Defining the Delta: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Lower Mississippi River Delta*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.

DuVal, Kathleen. *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution*. New York: Random House, 2015.

Gigantino II, ed. James J. *Slavery and Secession in Arkansas: A Documentary History*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.

Hogue, Wayman. *Back Yonder: An Ozark Chronicle* (original published, 1932; new edition edited by Brooks Blevins).

See Books, page 4

75th Annual Conference, cont. from page 1



Receptions: *Thursday*— Stella Boyle Smith Atrium, Historic Arkansas Museum, 200 E. Third Street, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Friday—Albert Pike Memorial Temple Dining Hall, 712 Scott Street, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Banquet & Awards Presentation: Albert Pike Memorial Temple Dining Hall, 712 Scott Street, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Tours: Mid-Century Modern Architecture Bus Tour with Mason Toms of Main Street Arkansas (pre-registration required).

Historic Neighborhoods Bicycle Tour (pre-registration required).

SoMa (South Main) Walking Tour with Samantha Evans of Main Street Arkansas (pre-registration required).

The annual conference committee members are Rachel Silva (local arrangements chair), Arkansas Historic Preservation Program; Susan Young (program chair), Shiloh Museum of Ozark History; and David Sesser, Henderson State University.

Sponsors for the conference include: Historic Arkansas Museum; Pulaski County Historical Society; UAMS Library Historical Research Center; Butler Center for Arkansas Studies; UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture; UALR College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences; UALR Department of History; UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity; and University of Arkansas Press.

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

Saturday's conference sessions will be held at Christ Episcopal Church. The Gothic Revival Edwin B. Cromwell-designed church was dedicated in 1941. *Courtesy of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.*

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Announcements and Upcoming Conferences

- Little Rock's Historic Arkansas Museum, like the Arkansas Historical Association, is celebrating 75 years. A retrospective exhibit, "A Diamond in the Rough: 75 Years of Historic Arkansas Museum," displays the most important pieces of the museum's permanent collection and celebrates the museum's commitment to preserving artwork and objects that illuminate Arkansas's cultural history. The exhibit will be displayed March 11, 2016 through February 2017. For more information, visit www.historicarkansas.org or call 501-324-9351.
- The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives Foundation, Inc., will host their annual history symposium on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the 1914 Schoolhouse at Historic Washington State Park. The symposium's theme, "Discovering Your Story," will feature speakers James G. Jones, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, and Arkansas History staff members Melissa Nesbitt and Jane Hooker. The seminar is free but registration is required with limited seating. For more information about the symposium or to register, contact history.commission@arkansas.gov or call 501-682-6900.
- Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County will host the 10th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium on July 22-23. The Symposium will focus on the final year of the Civil War and the beginning of Reconstruction in the Great Bend Region of the Red River. Teachers can receive up to six professional development hours. Register by July 20. Call 870-983-2684 or email HistoricWashington@arkansas.com for more information and costs.
- Preserve Arkansas will host its 2nd annual Preservation Libations Master Mix-Off on July 22 at the Albert Pike Memorial Temple in Little Rock. From 5:30-8:00 p.m., eight of Central Arkansas's best bartenders will mix prohibition-era drinks in an effort to win over the masses and judges. For costs and other questions call 501-372-4757, email info@preservearkansas.org or visit preservearkansas.org.
- Historic Washington State Park, the Arkansas Archeological Survey, and Preserve Arkansas will host "Behind the Big House," a workshop with Joseph McGill on May 13-14. Moving beyond stately historic homes, the program explores extant slave dwellings and interprets the experiences of the enslaved people who inhabited them. This workshop will include live historical interpretations and lectures to highlight the important contributions African Americans made to Arkansas's history. In cooperation with Joseph McGill, South Carolina-based Slave Dwelling Project, and Jerome Bias, interpreter at Stagville State Historic Site in North Carolina, the program will offer a broad understanding of the importance of slave dwellings in the interpretation of historic landscape and their role in heritage tourism. For more information, visit preservearkansas.org/what-we-do/education/behind-the-big-house.
- In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has created a passport that invites visitors to 26 stamping stations across the state, each housed in a National Register-listed site. To learn more about the program visit, www.arkansaspreservation.com/Learn-More/ahpp-passports.



The Old Crossett Post Office (Ashley County) is one of Arkansas National Register Passbook's 26 stamping sites. Added to the National Register in 2003, the building has been home to the post office, public library, and now the Crossett Economic Development Foundation. Built between 1939 and 1940 by the Works Progress Administration, the building blends Art Deco, Greek Revival, and the International architectural styles. Travelers who finish their passbook by December 31, 2020 can choose a commemorative patch or coin.



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."

Books Received by the AHQ, continued from page 1

Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2016.

McConnell, Jerry. *The Improbable Life of the Arkansas Democrat: An Oral History*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2016.

Parsons, Elaine Frantz. *Ku-Klux: The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Stephens, Donna Lampkin. *If It Ain't Broke, Break It: How Corporate Journalism Killed the Arkansas Gazette*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014.

Ware, David. *It's Official: The Real Stories behind Arkansas's State Symbols*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2015.

Weise, Julie. *Corazón de Dixie: Mexicanos in the American South since 1910*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Welky, Ali, ed. *A Captive Audience: Voices of Japanese American Youth in World War II Arkansas*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2015.

President's Message



AHA President Tim Nutt

The countdown to the Association's 75th annual conference has begun, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Little Rock. Susan Young, Rachel Silva, and David Sesser of the Annual Conference Committee have done an excellent job in planning our diamond celebration, and this year's conference promises to be as full of interesting presentations, exciting topics, and fascinating stories as at previous meetings. During this time of celebration, though, please remember the Association's founders and early officers and members who built the foundation on which we now stand. Without the dedication of Ted Worley, D.Y. Thomas, Clara B. Eno, Clyde McGinnis, Margaret Ross, Walter Brown, and others, the state of the Association and of Arkansas history would be vastly different.

As we celebrate this milestone in the Association's history, I will be completing my tenure as president. I have been interested in (and a little obsessive in collecting) the state's history since my childhood days so becoming president of the Arkansas Historical Association was my ultimate nerd fantasy come true. I have appreciated the opportunities to guide and preserve Arkansas history throughout these last four years. I would remiss if I did not recognize the board members with whom I have had the pleasure to work throughout my two terms. Their leadership truly made this job easy and working with Patrick Williams was an added bonus. I must also recognize my vice-president Joe Key for his immense help over the years. Of course, meeting and visiting with the members remain highlights of my days as AHA President.

I will see all of you in Little Rock and Happy 75th Anniversary to us!

Tim Nutt

Friends Group for the Arkansas History Commission Formed

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, the state's largest repository of Arkansas-related records, is now supported by the Friends of the Arkansas History Commission. The new group has the purpose of encouraging and supporting the advancement of Arkansas history by assisting the state's official history agency in fulfilling its mission of preserving and collecting Arkansas's history.

The organization was established at a meeting in Little Rock in December 2015. Over 40 people attended from all areas of the state, according to a press release from the group. Chairman of the Friends, Lloyd Clark, said "The impetus for establishing the group is the realization that the History Commission faces huge obstacles...inadequate funding, a small staff, and a lack of support in the legislature."

Chairman Lloyd Clark is a resident of Powhatan in Lawrence County and has been president of the Lawrence County Historical Society since 1995. Other officers comprising the leadership of the Friends are: Lynda Suffridge of North Little Rock, vice chairman; Tim Nutt, secretary; and Tom Dillard, treasurer.

Board members are: Joan L. Gould, Fayetteville; Blake Perkins, Lynn, Ark.; Rex Nelson, Little Rock; Blake Wintory, Lake Village; Russell P. Baker, Mabelvale; Carl Drexler, Magnolia; Frances Ross, Little Rock; Sondra Gordy, Conway; Marion Butler, Little Rock; Tom DeBlack, Conway; Ken Bridges, El Dorado; and Richard C. Butler, Little Rock.

Membership in the Friends of the History Commission is only \$10 per year. A sustaining membership is available for \$25, life membership for \$200, and a one-time corporate membership for \$500. For more information and how to join visit www.facebook.com/FriendsAHC.



Constructed in 1954, the National Old Line Insurance Company Building is one of Little Rock's mid-century marvels to be featured in the Mid-Century Modern Architecture Bus Tour during the conference. Now known as the 501 Building, it was designed by architect Yandell Johnson of Little Rock in the International Style. *Courtesy of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.*