77th Annual Conference in Fort Smith, April 19-21

Fort Smith, Arkansas’s true grit, frontier bordertown, will be the site of the 77th Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association, April 19-21, 2018.

Arkansas’s second city is currently celebrating the bicentennial of the founding of the first Fort Smith at Belle Point on the Arkansas River. Judging from the schedule no conference attendee will be left hanging. The conference proceedings will take place at the DoubleTree City Center in the historic downtown. Evening receptions will be held at River Park Events Building on Thursday and the Fort Smith Museum of

Pebley Center for Arkansas Historical & Cultural Materials, UAFS

The Pebley Center for Arkansas Historical & Cultural Materials opened in 2003 in the Boreham Library on the campus of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Named for Olive Gertrude Hanna Pebley and her daughters, Rosa Belle A. and Kathleen Ellen, the collections at the Pebley Center focus on the early history of Fort Smith and surrounding area (including eastern Oklahoma).

The collections at the Pebley Center include Fort Smith business and family records, and oral histories conducted by UAFS faculty and others. The Patterson Collection, donated by Anne Woods Patterson, former U. S. Ambassador to Egypt and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs during the Obama Administration, contains photographs and local and family histories written by Frank Weaver and Phoebe Parke.

The Wade Family Collection is a significant collection of photographs.

See Pebley, page 4
History on Friday. Saturday’s lunch will be held at Adelaide Hall.

The conference will explore the “Frontiers and Borders” of Arkansas, kicking off on Thursday with a two-part afternoon genealogy workshop with Angela Walton-Raji. The Fort Smith native will cover basic genealogy and sources specific to western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma, including Five Civilized Tribe records. Sessions on Friday and Saturday will tackle a range of subjects on Arkansas’s frontier and how science, race, gender, and war shaped the state. Highlights include:

**Genealogy Workshop:** *Thursday*—Angela Walton-Raji, DoubleTree City Center, Judge Parker Room, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Keynote Addresses:** *Friday*—Angela Walton-Raji, “Exploring the Border City and a Frontier Town”

  *Saturday*—Kathleen DuVal, “Native Ground, Past and Present”

**Receptions:** *Thursday*—River Park Events Building, 121 Riverfront Drive, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

  *Friday*—Fort Smith Museum of History, 320 Rogers Avenue, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

**Banquet & Awards Presentation:** *Friday*—DoubleTree City Center, Tulsa/Memphis Room, 7:15 p.m.

**Tours:**

  *Thursday Afternoon:* Trolley Tour of downtown Fort Smith, begins at DoubleTree, 2:00-4:30 p.m. (limited to twenty-one)

  *Friday Afternoon:* Historic Van Buren and the Drennen-Scott House (pre-registration required).

  Chaffee Crossing (pre-registration required), 2:00-4:00 p.m.

  See Conference, page 5
Announcements and Upcoming Conferences

- The Central Arkansas Library System and the Butler Center have announced the Jim Pledger Memorial Research Award to encourage research on Bill Clinton’s years in Arkansas using the Clinton-era materials on education policy available at the Butler Center. For more information on how to apply for the $2,000 award, contact Glenn Whaley, gwhaley@cals.org. Application deadline is April 16.

- The Arkansas Genealogical Society will host CeCe Moore of the Institute for Genetic Genealogy for its Fall Seminar on October 19-20, 2018 at the Benton Event Center in Benton. For more information visit the AGS website, www.agsgenealogy.org.

- Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County will host the 12th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium on July 20-21. Call 870-983-2684 or email HistoricWashington@arkansas.com for more information and costs.

- Preserve Arkansas will hold two spring events. On April 14, Preserve Arkansas will present its first “Mid Mod Arkansas” with a tour of the Tweedy House (built in 1950) in Springdale. Tickets are $30. On May 4, at 10 a.m., Preserve Arkansas will announce the 2018 list of Arkansas’s Most Endangered Places at Curran Hall. The nomination deadline is March 26. For more information, call 501-372-4757, email info@preservearkansas.org or visit preservearkansas.org.

- The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) celebrated its 40th anniversary on March 3. SARA began in 1978 and became the first regional branch of the Arkansas History Commission in October 2005. The archive, located on the grounds of Historic Washington State Park, promotes and collects the history of southwest Arkansas and the Red River Valley. For more information, visit archives.arkansas.gov/sara.

- State Historian and Director of the Arkansas State Archives, Dr. Lisa K. Speer, submitted her resignation in February. On March 21, the Department of Arkansas Heritage announced former director Dr. Wendy Richter as her replacement.

- The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies & the Arkansas Humanities Council, June 7-8, will offer a free two-day professional development workshop for teachers on “Mapping the Arkansas Territory — Then & Now.” Correlated to ADE Frameworks, the workshop will utilize primary sources and technology for lesson plans and a statewide effort to create a digital map comparing historical sources with the present day. Space is limited. For more details and information on paid lodging and meals, contact education coordinator George West at gwest@cals.org.

- The Quapaw Quarter Association will host its 54th Spring Tour on Mother's Day weekend, May 12-13. This year, the tour will explore Little Rock’s Central High School Neighborhood Historic District, featuring six homes on Schiller, Summit, and Battery Streets. Tour hours are 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may be purchased for $20 or on site the day of for $30. Children 10 and under are free. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.quapaw.com/spring_tour.

- The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee’s plan to plant memorial trees in all 75 counties has achieved its goal with the addition of Ashley County. The Arkansas Forestry Commission is providing 75 two-year-old willow oak trees for the project to remember the 71,862 Arkansans who served during the Great War, including the 2,183 who died while in service. For more information, visit www.wwiarkansas.com/wwi-memorial-trees.

- The Arkansas State Archives regularly updates its blog, From the Vault, with information about newly opened collections. A weekly post on Wednesdays features a “Wonderful Collection.” Recent highlights include: The Women’s Emergency Committee Collection and George Edward Fisher Papers. Visit arkansasstatearchives.blogspot.com to see what’s new at the state’s largest archive.

- The Arkansas State Archives and the Arkansas Black History Commission will hold a seminar, History of Arkansas’s Early Black Fraternal Organizations, Saturday, June 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. For more information, contact Tatyana Oyinloye at tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov.
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](http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org) and click "Membership."

---

**Pebley, continued from page 1**

Donated by Joan Wade, the collection consists of photographs assembled by her mother when she worked as a copy editor at the *Times-Record* in the early 1900s.

The archive is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:00 p.m. in Room 107 of the Boreham Library. Archivist Shelley Blanton can be contacted by email, shelley.blanton@uafs.edu or by phone 479-788-7213.

The Apple Hat Company, pictured here ca. 1915, is one of the many photographs in the Wade Collection in the Pebley Center at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Courtesy Pebley Center for Arkansas Historical & Cultural Materials.
President’s Message

Well, spring is upon us and it’s time to sign up for the Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference. The 77th annual conference will be held in Fort Smith April 19-21 and the theme is “Frontiers and Borders,” an especially appropriate topic for a city that served as the gateway of the United States’ western expansion. The annual conference committee – Susan Young, Steve Kite and Billy Higgins – have pulled out all the stops in developing the conference. For the first time, the conference will include a genealogy workshop, which will be led by Angela Walton-Raji, who will also be one of the keynote speakers. Tours will include a trolley tour of Fort Smith’s public art, a tour of Van Buren and the Drennen-Scott Historic Site and a visit to Chaffee Crossing, where Elvis Presley got his G.I. haircut. There is also an incredible slate of presentations on many aspects of Arkansas history. You will not want to miss it.

The Arkansas Historical Association Board of Trustees has elected to move its endowment accounts to a new home with the Arkansas Community Foundation after careful study by finance committee members Robert F. Thompson, Maylon Rice and John Kyle Day. The move promises continued steady growth of the AHA’s endowments and happily also allows adequate funding for all of the Association’s awards and scholarships, including the Dr. C. Calvin Smith Scholarship, the James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award, and the Susannah DeBlack Award, among others. The AHA will also provide scholarships for students from each of Arkansas’s Congressional Districts to attend the annual conference.

The state’s commemoration of the centennial of the Great War continues, and the Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee and the Arkansas Forestry Commission are excited to report success in their WWI Memorial Tree program to honor the nearly 72,000 Arkansawyers who served in the war and the 2,183 who did not live to see its end. Through the program, the AFC provided 75 two-year-old willow oaks so that one memorial tree can be planted in each of Arkansas’s 75 counties, a goal that was reached on March 22, 2018. You can visit http://www.wwiarkansas.com to follow events and activities before the commemoration finishes at the end of 2018.

Mark Christ
President

77th Annual Conference, cont. from page 2

The annual conference committee members are Billy Higgins (local arrangements chair), University of Arkansas-Fort Smith; Steven Kite (program chair), University of Arkansas-Fort Smith; and Susan Young (conference chair), Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

Sponsors for the conference include: Fort Smith Historical Society; Chaffee Crossing Historic District; City of Fort Smith; Butler Center for Arkansas Studies; Drennen-Scott House; Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau; Fort Smith Museum of History; Fort Smith National Historic Site; Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; the Department of History, UA-Fort Smith; and University of Arkansas Press.

The conference is also supported through funds from the Arkansas Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by the Department of Arkansas Heritage.
Beginning in 2015, Unexpected Arkansas has brought public art by international artists to downtown Fort Smith. Thursday’s afternoon tour of downtown will include public murals and other installations. Pictured here is *American Heroes*, a 2016 mural by Guido Van Helten at O.K. Feed Mills on Wheeler Ave. There is also a large mural titled *Opossum*, which the editor’s mother-in-law calls, in disgust, “a giant rat.” *Courtesy of Fort Smith Historical Society.*