

The Ruffian

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Newsletter of the Arkansas Historical Association

Fearlessly grappling with all the latest history doin's pertinent to the discerning Arkansawyer, about twice a year. Send news and events to kjones116@atu.edu.

Edith Irby Jones

In July, Arkansans were saddened to learn of the passing of Edith Irby Jones in Houston, Texas. She was the first African American to attend and graduate from Little Rock's University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Born in Faulkner County in 1927, Irby lost her father and sister at an early age, prompting a lifelong desire to improve access to medical care. When Jones was accepted at UAMS—becoming the first African American to be accepted to a public all-white medical school in the South—national publications like *Ebony* and the *Washington Post* picked up the story. Over her long career, Jones practiced and taught medicine in the United States, Haiti, Mexico, Cuba, China, Russia, and various parts of Africa. For a fuller account of Jones's story, see the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/edith-irby-jones-2393/>, and enjoy some of her own words in an interview excerpt published in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Above: Edith Irby Jones' graduation photograph, 1952. CALS *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*.



Y'uns/Y'all Save the Date

In an effort to quell the generations-long brawl between hill folks and lowland types, the Arkansas Historical Association has chosen a relatively central location for its next meeting, which will take place April 16-18, 2020. Members and friends will find common ground in Conway, organized by the theme "Arkansas without Barriers: Pursuing Equity in the Land of Opportunity." There's still time to get on the program. Just email a paper proposal to Blake Perkins at bperkins@williamsbu.edu. Find all the details and registration information at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

County History Roundup

The Arkansas Historical Association seeks to gather and disseminate updated information about our state's county historical societies. Please send your association's updated contact information, including websites or pertinent social media pages, to trustee Rachel Silva Patton at rpatton@preservearkansas.org.

"The other man was a stalwart ruffian called 'Arkansas,' who carried two revolvers in his belt and a bowie knife projecting from his boot, and who was always drunk and always suffering for a fight. But he was so feared, that nobody would accommodate him."

-Mark Twain, *Roughing It*

Arkansas Historical Association

President

Mark Christ, Little Rock markkchrist@hotmail.com

Vice-President

Story Matkin-Rawn, Conway slmatkinrawn@uca.edu

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Patrick Williams, Fayetteville pgwillia@uark.edu

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cdrexler@uark.edu

Jami Forrester, Springdale
jforrester@nwacc.edu

Buck T. Foster, Clarksville
bfoster@uca.edu

Kelly Houston Jones, Russellville
kjones116@atu.edu

Steven Kite, Fort Smith
Steve.Kite@uafs.edu

Chris Mortenson, Arkadelphia
mortensonc@yahoo.com

Rachel Silva Patton, Little Rock
rpatton@preservearkansas.org

Blake Perkins, Lynn
bperkins@williamsbu.edu

Maylon T. Rice, Fayetteville
rice4arkhouse85@gmail.com

Brian Robertson, Cabot
brianr@cals.org

David Sesser, Arkadelphia
sesserd@hsu.edu

Bill Shrum, Stuttgart
bshrum@stuttgartdailyleader.com

Christina Shutt, Little Rock
christina.shutt@arkansas.gov

Robert Thompson, Paragould
rft3@paragould.net

Susan Young, Springdale
syoung@springdalear.gov

Donna Ludlow, Fayetteville
Business Manager dludlow@uark.edu

New Organization in These Parts: The Ozarks Studies Association

Do you love the history and culture of the Ozarks? (Even the *Missourah side*?) You'll jump like a worm in hot ashes to find out that a group of scholars has recently inaugurated the shiny new Ozarks Studies Association, an interdisciplinary crowd looking to promote research and education on all things related to the people and places of the Ozarks. They first gathered at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale on May 17, 2019 to attend and participate in a daylong conference themed "Histories of the Buffalo National River."

For more information about that association and what they're up to next, contact Jared Phillips at jmpoo6@uark.edu or Becky Howard at rebeccahowardoo@gmail.com.

Listen Here!

Hear the jingle for Grapette, a grape-flavored drink developed in 1939 in Camden, courtesy CALS *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*:

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/media/grapette-jingle-7448/>

Y'all Come Out:

"Elaine at 100: Race, Labor, and Violence in the Lower Mississippi Valley" is an academic conference to be held on September 26-27, hosted by the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Philander Smith College. The conference, sponsored by the Diane D. Blair Center for Southern Politics and Society at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, brings some of the nation's foremost scholars to Little Rock and will focus on the intersections of work, violence, and race in the era after the Civil War. For more information and a schedule of events, visit: <https://news.uark.edu/articles/49987/blair-center-conference-to-mark-100th-anniversary-of-elaine-riot> There are no tickets or reservations needed, but those planning to bring a large group should contact Mike Pierce at mpierce@uark.edu.

The ***Elaine Memorial Unveiling and Dedication Program*** is scheduled for Sunday, September 29, at 2 p.m., in Court Square Park, located at 350 Perry Street, Helena, Ark. The public is invited to this historic and momentous occasion in honor of those who were slain during the Elaine Massacre of 1919. Admission is free. The reception will be held at the Phillips County Courthouse immediately following the dedication program. To RSVP, visit <https://www.elainemassacrememorial.org/rsvp>.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program invites you to their next ***"Sandwiching in History" tour***, which will visit the Mills-Davis House at 523 East 6th Street in Little Rock beginning at noon on Friday, October 4th. An outstanding example of Italianate architecture built in 1878, the house was originally occupied by Abraham and Eliza "Eudie" LeFevre Mills, who lived there until the early 1940s. It was later occupied by famed Arkansas photographer William "Bill" Davis. Sandwiching in History tours are worth one hour of AIA continuing education credit. For more information, please contact Callie Williams at Callie.Williams@arkansas.gov.

Right: The Mills Davis House, photo courtesy Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.



This year's **Fall Cemetery Preservation Workshop** hosted by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will be held on October 5, 9:00-4:00, at the Green Grove-Love Rest Cemetery in Stuttgart. Join cemetery preservation expert Holly Hope and Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC. An RSVP is required since the program includes victuals (vegetarian options available): holly.hope@arkansas.gov, 501-324-9148.

Expert Jeanne Rollberg will hold a two-session **Genealogy Workshop** at the CALS Thompson Library in Little Rock on Saturday, October 5, from 2:30-4:30. Each session will last approximately one hour and allow time for questions and answers. "Intro to Genealogy" will introduce key online genealogy databases along with the kinds of primary documents needed to flesh out and verify assertions in family tree. "Discovering Our Female Ancestors" will help genealogists learn how to trace women in family history documents despite the complications of name changes and other factors that often limited women's prominence in the record. Free and open to the public; register at 501-821-3060.

Looky Here!

Factory workers sorting pickles at Atkins Pickle Company, 1955.

Courtesy Van Tyson, CALS *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*,

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/media/atkins-pickle-company-pickle-sorting-1955-8137/>



Enjoy a fall living history tour at **Wolf House: A Day at the Courthouse** on October 19 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Jacob Wolf House. Tour the courthouse and learn about the interesting people and events of Liberty, Arkansas. Visit with a hunter and trapper and see what a day-in-the-life was like on the 1830s Ozarks frontier. Event details at <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/events/wolf-house-a-day-at-the-courthouse>.

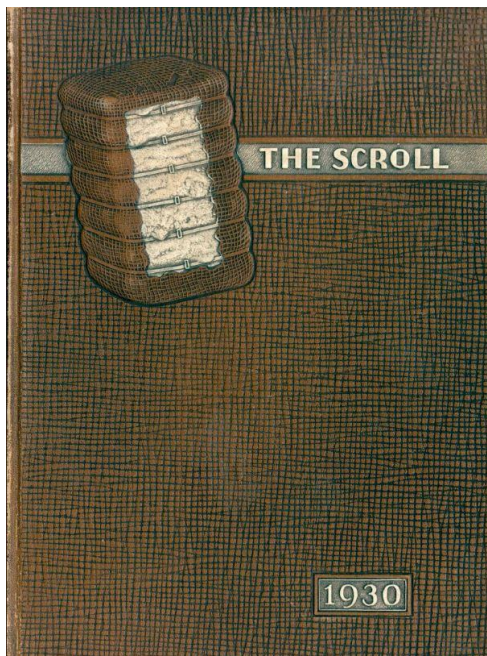
The braver set of Arkansawyers won't shrink from attending the following events ringing in the spookier time of year: Join Amy Milliken at the CALS Fletcher Library (823 N. Buchanan St, Little Rock) on October 8th at 6:00pm to hear all about **Arkansas's Haunted Hotels**. Then, if you dare, stop in at the **Old State House Museum's Boo!seum Bash** or **Boo!seum at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center**, both at 5:30-8:30 pm on October 24 for hands-on activities and candy.

Get your history holiday fix December 8th in Little Rock. The **Historic Arkansas Museum** will begin their annual Christmas Frolic at 4:00. Frolickers can celebrate with living history, carols, live music, dancing, and more. Enjoy hot cider and ginger cake while shopping for unique Arkansas-made holidays gifts. The event is free and open to the public. And just yonder the **Mosaic Templars Cultural Center** will hold its **Holiday Open House** event from 2:00-5:00, followed by the **Old State House Museum's Holiday Open House** at 5:00. You'll find the grounds colorfully decorated for the season and even the Scrooigest historian will enjoy the delightful carols performed by local music groups.

I Tell You What:

The **Yellow Rose Project**, an initiative of the Arkansas Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration Committee, plans to plant a yellow rose in every Arkansas county before the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, August 26, 2020. Is your county represented? For more information, contact ARvotesforwomen@gmail.com.

The **Central Arkansas Library System (CALs)** recently launched the Arkansas Vietnam War Project to collect oral histories, letters, photographs, and diaries from Arkansans who served during the conflict, from family members of veterans, and from civilians who want to share memories of the war. The CALs Butler Center especially seeks to record oral histories with Arkansas Vietnam War veterans. To participate in such an interview, contact Brian Robertson at brianr@cals.org or (501) 320-5723. For more information about the Arkansas Vietnam War Project, take a gander at www.butlercenter.org/arkansas-vietnam-war-project.



The **University of Central Arkansas Archives** has completed a five-year project of scanning and placing UCA's yearbook, *The Scroll*, online. Beyond documenting names, dates, organizations, and sports, the yearbooks' pages provide a fascinating first-hand look at the worldviews of students, from Old South Lost Cause romanticism found in the 1930 issue to students' wonder and awe at the library's online book catalog in 1993. All *Scrolls* from 1915 to 2018 are available at <https://uca.edu/archives/the-scroll/>.

Left: Cover of *The Scroll*, 1930. UCA Archives, drive.google.com/file/d/oB9KOZz5EwAvvMzciSzVBWXduNDA/view

The **Old State House Museum** in Little Rock kicks off their new Arkansas State Fair-themed exhibit, called "80 Blue Ribbon Years: Cotton to Cattle," on October 5th.

From October 1, 2019 through January 4, 2020, the **Delta Cultural Center's "We Are the Music Makers!"** exhibit will feature the work of photographer Timothy Duffy. Admission is free. The photographs delve into the music and musicians of the South, with the stories of blues and gospel artists at center stage. To arrange group

tours, contact Richard Spilman, DCC education coordinator at (870) 338-4350, or richard.spilman@arkansas.gov. Visit the Delta Cultural Center at www.deltaculturalcenter.com.

Do you have compelling research relating to the history of Arkansas women? Did you know you could rake in \$1,000 for that work? The **Arkansas Women's History Institute** will soon release its official call for paper submissions for the 2020 Susie Pryor Award, which annually recognizes a previously unpublished essay on an Arkansas women's history topic. Susie Pryor was a mother, community leader, local historian, and writer from Camden. The deadline is usually late January or mid-February; for this year's details as they emerge, entry criteria, and past winners, visit: www.arkansaswomen.org.



Join the Arkansas Historical Association and receive four issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* per year, as well as the Association's newsletter for the following rates:

Individual, one year for \$20; Individual, two year, for \$35;

Family, one year for \$30; Family, two year for \$45;

Foreign, one year for \$30; Student, one year, for \$15;

Contributing, one year, for \$50; Sustaining, one year for \$100;

Supporting, one year, for \$200;

Life Membership for \$500 (payable over three years)

Permanent Membership for \$1,000 (payable over five years)

Renewal and new memberships can be paid online using Paypal;
visit the AHA website arkansashistoricalassociation.org.
